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THE NEWSPAPER FOR SITTINGBOURNE, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT

Issue No 149
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Classy 5-Series
makes an impact

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Helping you make
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TERRORISM EXPERT'S EYE ON SHEPPEY

A LEADING counter-terrorist expert has identified "critical infrastructure" on Sheppey which, if attacked, could paralyse the nation.

Professor David Sloggett has been drafted in by Kent Police to identify entry routes and targets for extremists set on causing maximum impact.

The gas station, its huge storage chambers and links to the national grid, the nearby petrol stores and the continual passage of fuel tankers have all been identified as potential targets.

Speaking to yourswale, the security specialist said: "We continue to seek to

EXCLUSIVE

BY JILL HURST

understand contemporary terrorism and, using lessons from the past and the resources we have, prevent future attacks."

Professor Sloggett said the hijack of the freight tanker Arctic Sea in 2009 was a reminder that terrorists could be operating close to home. Pirates boarded the ship in Swedish waters and sailed the vessel up the Dover straits towards West Africa's Atlantic coast without being detected.

"We need to think about a combina-

tion of the Arctic Sea hijack and the Mumbai terrorist attack with the power to transmit such an event around the world," he said.

He warned that any major terrorist attack would need to be well planned and harbours such as Queenborough, with its all-tide landing, could be a potential stop-off point during reconnaissance trips.

Detective Superintendent Andrew Lyttle heads up the management of frontier operations. He said: "Kent has long been seen as a thoroughfare for criminal activity whether illegal immigration, sex workers, drugs or terrorist activity.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



SWITCH-OFF IS NOT IN THE FRAME - YET

Kent won't be following in Oxfordshire's steps immediately, but hasn't ruled out the possibility of switching speed cameras off.

Cuts in Government funding mean county councils now have the choice to fund or not to fund. The reassessment has sparked bitter debate. Motoring groups want the cameras to go, citing their "limited effectiveness" and cost to drivers.

However, safety campaigners claim cameras can reduce road deaths by up to 72 per cent. Kent County Council is playing the proverbial tortoise to the Oxfordshire hare by putting safety first and considering its options in an autumn review.

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your lifestyle



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Family tribute to Tom after A299 tragedy

BY JILL HURST

FAMILY and friends of a Hernhill teenager who was killed in a crash on the A299 Thanet Way last week have paid tribute to "an accomplished sportsman with an infectious smile".

Tom Brenchley, 16, died after his Yamaha moped was in collision with a Volvo car on the London-bound carriageway, near Dargate, at 9.45pm on Tuesday, July 27.

Tom was transferred to Kings College Hospital, London, the following day but died of serious head injuries. His parents, Jackie and David, allowed their son's organs to be used for transplant, a decision which they say Tom would have fully supported.

David and Jackie and 18-year-old brother, Chris, paid an emotional tribute to the youngster, who was an accomplished sportsman and on the verge of starting a carpentry apprenticeship.

David said: "Everyone who knew Tom will remember him as a generous, kind and loving boy who was truly loyal to his friends. He had an infectious smile that lightened every room he entered. We feel so privileged to have known such a wonderful person and the world is a poorer place without him."

Tom was just five weeks old when his family moved to Hernhill, near Faversham, and he attended the village nursery and primary school.

He joined Hernhill Herons FC from the age of four, winning many trophies over the years. He also played for Whitstable Colts and enjoyed golf, cricket and skiing.

A pupil of the Archbishop's School in Canterbury, Tom took his GCSEs this summer and hoped to pursue a career as a carpenter.

Mum Jackie said: "Tom was born in a rush - just seven minutes after we got to hospital and he seems to



MUCH LOVED: Tom Brenchley

have been on the go ever since. He lived life to the full and had the wonderful gift of being able to make others smile."

Dad David added: "We would like to thank all of those who have contacted us and sent cards. Their thoughts mean so much to us and it has helped to know how popular Tom was and that he was loved by so many people."

More than a thousand have signed up to a tribute page on social networking website Facebook.

Tom's funeral service and burial will be at St Michael's Church, Hernhill, on Monday.

Family and friends are welcome to attend. The family have requested donations rather than flowers. All monies will be used to help young people who have suffered head injuries.

• A 48-year-old from Whitstable was arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving after the collision and released on police bail pending further investigation. Officers have renewed their appeal for witnesses to the accident, on the London-bound carriageway, just before the Lychgate service station.

Officers are keen to speak to anyone who was in the area just before the collision and who may have seen the vehicles involved.

Contact Kent Police's Serious Collision Investigation Unit on 01622 798538.

Rotary cash boosts Scout group coffers



CHEQUE IT OUT: 2nd Sheppey Scouts

SCOUTS celebrated after receiving a cheque for £200 from the Isle of Sheppey Rotary Club.

Former Rotary Club president Margo Bronger presented the cheque to 2nd Sheppey Scout group leader Gloria Yates at St Peter's Hall, in Halfway, where the group meets.

Mrs Yates said she was delighted to accept the contribution, adding: "The money will go towards new equipment for the group."

Playtime for families

A FAMILY fun day will be held today (Wednesday) at Beachfields on the Isle of Sheppey as part of the national Playday campaign.

A borough council official said: "Playday is an annual celebration of children's right to play. Events range from neighbourhood get-togethers to big public events organised by local authorities and national groups.

"This will be the second year the scheme has run in Swale and is organised by the sports development team."

The day runs from 10am to 2pm and there will be a range of free activities for children and families, including football, clay modelling, storytelling, mini soccer and messy play.

Cllr Bryan Mulhern said: "We hope many families turn up to have a day of fun together. It's also a great opportunity to improve community links."

To find out more, click on www.playday.org.uk.

Cornfield catches fire

FIREFIGHTERS battled a crop fire in a field on the Isle of Sheppey for just over an hour.

Standing corn in Plough Road, Leysdown caught fire during the hot spell on Wednesday, last week, at about 4.20pm.

Six fire engines from around the district, including Faversham and Sittingbourne, were called to assist.

A fire service official said a large area had been destroyed but the blaze was brought under control by 5.25pm.

Games security threat warning

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

"While it's important for people to be aware of the risks, they should be reassured there is a strong surveillance presence. What we say to the public is, next time you see a boat at sea, regardless of whether it's a pleasure craft or a commercial liner, be reassured that we will already know about it.

"If it has entered Kent waters it will have been boarded already or risk-assessed by police.

"The security of the Olympic

Games is now a key component of the maritime team and for those living in or visiting the area, it's important they have a sense of well-being and are aware of our presence."

The Olympics Games has presented the Home Office with the biggest peacetime security operation since World War Two.

Home Office advisers have warned there is a risk of "displacing" a terror attack to other parts of the UK because of the intense focus on the Games. One said: "We are acutely

aware that particularly for terrorism, there could be a hardening focus on the Olympics and displace an attack on to other parts of the UK."

The current risk of attack on the UK is "severe" which means an attack is regarded as highly likely.

If you have any information that could help the fight against terror, or if something strikes you as suspicious and out of place then trust your instincts and call the anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789321 or the police on 999.

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Three schools in first wave of new academies

BY JILL HURST

GOVERNMENT officials have given three schools in Sittingbourne the green light to opt out of KCC control and become one of the first new-style academies.

Ranked as 'outstanding' by education watchdog Ofsted, Fulston Manor, The Westlands School and Highsted Grammar School made it onto a national list alongside 150 others set to receive funding directly from central Government.

Secondary schools in Faversham and The Isle of Sheppey, together with primary schools across the district, failed to make the grade.

In addition to greater control over finances, academy schools will have more of a say on teachers' pay, their conditions and the national curriculum.

Rushed

However, critics say schools are being rushed into changes and fear the result will be a two-tiered education system.

Swale Labour Party spokesman, Roger Truelove, said: "The great fear must be that academies will want to use procedures to select those children who will sustain their elite reputations, the ones that gave them academy status in the first place.

"They will not want any challenging children, and of course, they will want to recruit the most successful teachers from the remaining maintained schools."

The School Governor's Association has advised members not to rush applications.

Christine Blower, general secretary of the National Union Teachers, said: "This does not

WHAT IS AN ACADEMY?

ACADEMIES are state-maintained independent schools set up with the help of outside sponsors.

Former Prime Minister, Tony Blair, established academies in 2000 to drive up standards by replacing failing schools in struggling education authorities.

Originally called city academies, the government dropped the word 'city' to allow for academies in struggling rural areas as well as inner cities.

Under the new coalition Government only schools (primary, secondary and special schools) that have been rated outstanding overall in their most recent Ofsted inspection are eligible to convert to academies through this process.

Failing schools that converted to academies under the previous Labour Government will be allowed to retain their academy status.

The Secretary of State has announced that schools previously judged outstanding will no longer be subject to routine school inspections by Ofsted. According to the Department of Education the performance of all schools will continue to be monitored and if there are signs of deterioration or other factors that are a cause for concern, an inspection could be triggered. However, exactly how this process will work has not been announced, leading to criticism the new academies bill was rushed through without due consultation.

Other than outstanding schools which convert to academies, the Government says it expects other academies (awarded their status under the previous Labour government) will continue to be inspected in the normal way.

mean 153 schools will end up as an academy – the application has to be agreed. A Governing body may well change its mind between an academy order being granted and the funding agreement signed."

Fulston Manor headteacher, Alan Brookes, confirmed the school was not home and dry.

He said: "Although uncertainties still remain, it is anticipated the conversion is likely to be concluded some time during the middle of August, with a start date of September 2010.

"Again I invite any comments or questions you may have regarding any aspect of this process."

Attempting to pour cold water over hot stones Gordon Henderson, MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, said: "I know there is some concern new academies will destabilise existing schools

and take resources away from them, but I don't believe this will be the case. Yes there will be challenges but I am sure with some innovative thinking KCC will ensure the remaining schools are properly supported.

"The act does include measures that stipulate that before a maintained school can convert into an academy, its governing body must consult those that they think appropriate on the question of whether the school should convert into an academy and I will be watching closely to ensure this actually happens."

The Isle of Sheppey Academy does not fall into the list. Its academy status was awarded under the previous Labour Government's definition, which sought to increase funds to failing schools.

Arrests over brutal holiday park attack

A FATHER of two remains in intensive care after being attacked at a holiday park in Leysdown.

Sheppey police have arrested six men in connection with the assault.

They include a 21-year-old man from Brixton, a 19-year-old and 16-year-old from Battersea and a 15-year-old from Wandsworth.

Officers were called to the holiday camp in Warden Bay Road at 2.15am on Sunday, July 25, to reports that a 33-year-old man had been assaulted by a group of youths.

Police said the victim was targeted after he asked people at a nearby party to keep the noise down.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact officers at Sittingbourne police station on 01795 419282, quoting reference CY/11762/10.

Woman victim of sex attacker in 60s

A PERVERT is being hunted by police after a sex attack in Faversham.

The 55-year-old victim was sitting reading a book on a bench at Iron Wharf in Abbey Street at 8pm on July 24 when a white man in his 60s struck up a conversation with her.

After leaving the attacker returned half an hour later and forced the woman's hand onto his crotch.

The woman was able to get away after hitting the man over the head with her sandal.

The offender is of medium build, 5ft 10ins and wore fawn-coloured trousers and a green top.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 01795 419 337 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 quoting reference CY/11815/10.

Cigarettes stolen in service station raid

BURGLARS made off with £5,000 of cigarettes after a raid on a garage in Faversham.

Police have appealed for witnesses after raid at the Macknade's service station in Canterbury Road on July 27, at 3.25am.

Officers are hunting two men, aged between 18 to 25. One is of slim build and wore a grey hooded top, brown trousers and black trainers with white laces.

The other man is of medium build, wore a dark Adidas hooded top with gold writing, black track-suit trousers and black and white Nike trainers.

Witnesses can call Sittingbourne police station on 01795 419354, quoting reference CY/11894/10.

Thieves rob couple of baby's first film

CALLOUS burglars robbed a young Faversham couple of a video camera containing footage of their newborn baby's first days.

Police are appealing for help to catch the raiders who also made off with a laptop computer, a camera and computer games from a house in Hobgens Hill, Selling, on July 31.

The burglars broke in through the back door between 3pm and 7pm.

Anyone with information can call 01622 604374 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

MP in emotional Parliament plea to save magistrates

SITTINGBOURNE and Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson made an emotional plea to save the last remaining Magistrates Court in the district.

During his speech the Conservative reminded the coalition Government that parts of Swale fall into the top 20 per cent of deprived areas nationally adding greater importance to the role of the court.

Concern

Mr Henderson told fellow MPs: "I wish to raise a subject of great concern to many of my constituents—the proposed closure of the magistrates court in Sittingbourne.

"This is not the first time that Sittingbourne magistrates court has been considered for closure. However, during the last review, a decision was taken to retain the service, not least because of the unique nature of its catchment area.

"Sittingbourne Magistrates court serves a wide area of north Kent,

including the borough of Swale which has a population of 132,000 and is the second most deprived area in the whole of Kent.

"There are pockets of severe social and economic deprivation, particularly on the Isle of Sheppey. Some 15 neighbourhoods in the borough are in the 20 per cent most deprived areas nationally, with 11 of those areas being located on Sheppey.

"As you will be aware, Mr Deputy Speaker, people living in deprived areas often make up a higher proportion of court users than people from more affluent areas.

"I have already made representations to the Ministry of Justice on behalf of my constituents in Sittingbourne and Sheppey, and I urge Ministers now to listen closely to my pleas and announce that our local court will remain open.

"I plead with them not just for myself, but for all those vulnerable constituents living in some very deprived areas."

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Day in the life of men who police the high seas

■ BY JILL HURST

DAYS like the one I spent with the police marine tactical unit remind me how lucky I am to do my job.

Come rain or shine this hardy lot are out on patrol, quietly getting on with the job of protecting our community both on and off the water.

The marine unit doesn't get a great deal of publicity, nor do they seek it, so I was delighted to be invited to spend a day with them.

I met Sergeant Mark Wigmore and his lads at Sheerness Docks – home to the 34-tonne Tamar class C boat, Princess Alexandra III.

Safety briefing complete, life-jackets fastened and on-board tour over, the 54-foot, five-year-old vessel seemed eager to get to sea. Fenders out, the crew darted around, executing our textbook departure from port.

Out at sea, Mark introduced me to the automatic identification system (AIS). It's a short range coastal tracking system used on ships and by traffic services, such as the police, for identifying and locating vessels by electronically exchanging information.

Mark explains that if there's a ship on the water he'll be able to find it on AIS. Moreover, he'll be able to access some critical data, including where it's been and its destination. "If a vessel is in our waters it will be on the AIS system and if it's on the system you can be sure we've already boarded it or it's been risk-assessed," he assured me.

This is essential in the fight against crime. Kent has long been a thoroughfare for the sex trade, illegal immigrants, gun and drug smuggling and more recently terrorism.

Under Schedule 7 of the Terrorist Act 2000, the crew are permitted to board a vessel and conduct further investigations, and we pull up alongside a large cargo ship.

Mark says the Greek vessel, Georgis Nikolos, is a "trammer" used to transport anything from wood, to fuel or grain – a mercenary of the waters.

"We'll ask the master for permission to go on board and once on deck we'll be looking for anything that stands out as strange."

The team will check passports for forgeries, the crew log for any new additions, and find out if anyone has been to shore and what they did. They'll also be on the lookout for tensions on board.

Mark says: "Most people on board will be professional seaman but there'll be some who have joined the crew and we want to



KEEPING SEAS SAFE: Sergeant Mark Wigmore and one of his officers Dean Richards 'at the office'

know why. There is an entire community on the sea and often it will act as our eyes and ears. It's about being a familiar presence and building up relationships and intelligence."

I'm amazed as I watch two officers, including Dean Rogers, go aboard the Nikolos. They have to pull themselves up hundreds of feet of rope ladder to get on deck.

"It can get a bit dodgy when it's rough," Dean says breezily on his return. "As the ship rocks up you have to go as fast as you can before it dips back down, and if the wind is up you can find yourself swinging."

The crew cover the area from the QE2 bridge in Dartford down to Dungeness, The Stour, The Swale and The Medway. They are also responsible for the rivers.

It's a vast coastline and a huge responsibility that includes thousands of small pleasure crafts and yachts.

Mark assures me a team of intelligence experts are back at base feeding in information from sources around the world.

The unit has come a long way since its first, post-war, rowing boat in Rochester.

The unit is manned by a passionate and dedicated team and as I walk away I feel just a little bit safer knowing they are responsible for policing our waters.



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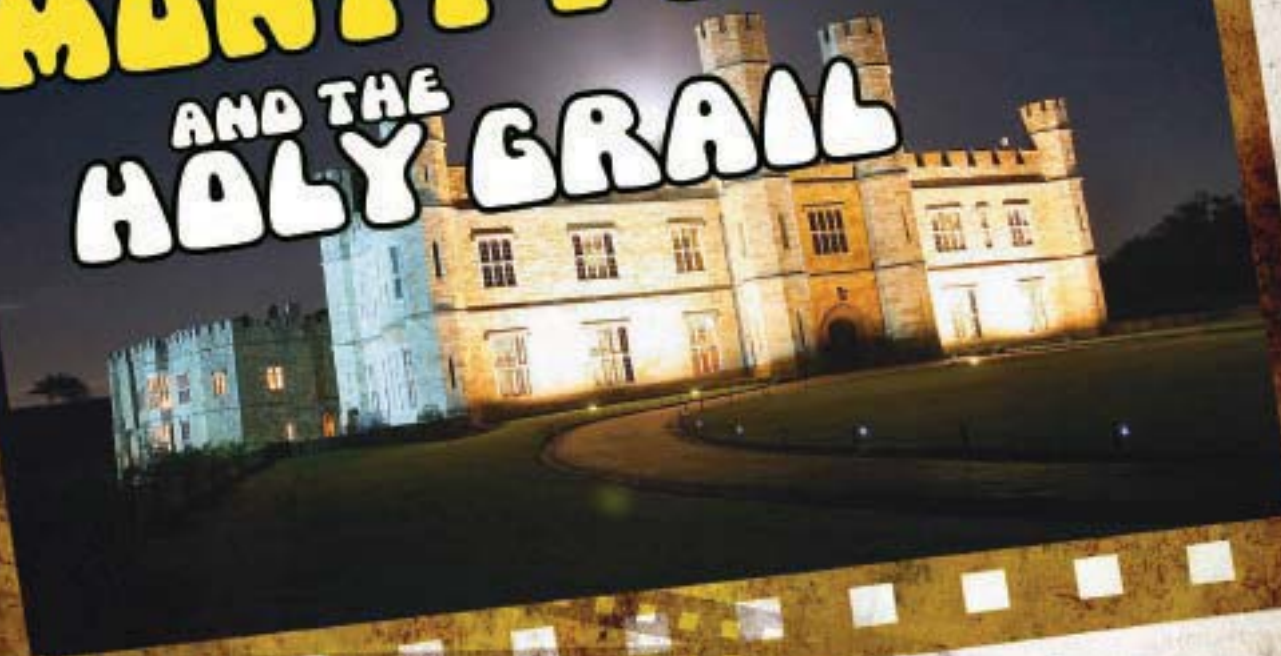
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GOING ABOARD: The Georgis Nikolos ferries cargoes around Europe, and right, officer Dean Rogers climbs the rope ladder to board the ship



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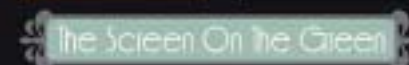
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BY JILL HURST

HALF-a-stone down at the three week point on the Arriba! community weight loss challenge and I encountered my first eureka moment.

Surprisingly it had nothing to do with my bowel movements, although I'm confident the readers of Yoursware will be as relieved as I was to know everything is back in working order.

I've felt really good this week. I'm sleeping better, awake earlier, feel more vibrant and I'm definitely more positive.

So what dawned on me was something my coach, Sara Marmont, has been trying to drum in for weeks. I need to think about my long-term habits, look beyond the twelve-week programme and work towards a permanent change of lifestyle.

I confess it's a bit scary to think my days of being a curry eating, wine drinking, TV watching female version of Homer Simpson are over.

Naturally I'm also a bit anxious whether I can pull this off. Hence I set out in search of help.

I talked to David Holbrook at Syndale Gym in Faversham. He's worked as a fitness instructor for nearly ten years, helping hundreds of overweight, elderly or people recovering from injury or illness back to physical health.

David says he can predict almost immediately who will make the leap to a permanent change of lifestyle.

"First it's about being honest and open about your habits and knowing what you want to change," he advised me. "Then it's about forming new habits and patterns.

"Those who tend to stick to changes start off gently, but consistently. They may come to the gym just once a week, but generally it will be the same time each week. There's a habit forming.

"Those who want a quick fix generally come in a lot at the beginning, but there's no pattern to it. It takes about four to six weeks before you can say a habit is forming and after year,

Changing 'Homer' habits the key to me achieving goal



DO'H DEAR: Jill has realised she needs to look long-term in order to avoid becoming a female version of Homer Simpson

THINKING RIGHT WAY

ACCORDING to the British Dietetic Association (BDA) people who have struggled with their weight are more prone to the dangers of all or nothing thinking. This means that if they eat a bad food, or miss the gym a few times, they start to tell themselves they've failed, and may as well give up. Changing this thinking is the key to success.

If you follow a rigid weight-loss programme, the risk of all or nothing thinking is greatly increased.

That's why fad diets usually fail. When the diet is broken, the dieter feels like a failure and gives up, but really it was the fad diet that was the failure.

While research shows that people may lose weight using a variety of approaches the BDA have identified 10 common factors that lead to long-term weight loss. And they are all about achieving a healthy diet and active lifestyle in the long term, and not just short-term calorie counting.

it's likely you'll have made lifestyle changes that will be permanent.

"In my experience those people who stick to a healthy lifestyle and go the gym for two years will probably keep it up for life."

David advocates a little by little approach, adding: "By making small changes you could lose a pound a week. Over a year this is getting on for four stones and by doing it gradually and by forming new habits you are likely to stick to it. You'll certainly never want to put it back on. If you want to make two small changes that will be beneficial then drink more water and cook your own meals.

"If you make your own food you'll naturally eat better and understand what you are eating. If you want a burger have one, but make it with lean mince and fresh ingredients."

I enjoyed my visit to Syndale Gym and David helped me feel more confident about my own chances of success.

Syndale's clientele is real mix of young fitties, old fatties and those recovering from illness. I could see myself really enjoying this setting without the fear of sticking out or being embarrassed.

For this reason I'd recommend it. It's certainly different from my current gym where the instructors huddle around their desk together like The Sopranos, menacingly holding a protein shake in place of an AK47.

So I'm off back to Syndale next week and I'm

taking my gym kit with me. Get next week's issue of Yoursware to read how I get on.

There's still time to join the Arriba! weight loss challenge. To sign up or find out more contact Sara on 01795 532201 or visit www.arriba-faversham.co.uk.

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QUESTION & ANSWER

VIRGINIA HOWES



Q How did you first become a midwife?

A I married quite young, had four babies of my own and loved everything about pregnancy, birth and motherhood and was sad to leave it all behind once my own family was complete so thought midwifery was a way to stay involved. At 32 I went back to full-time study at university and arrived at my dream job six years later.

Q Why did you set up an independent midwifery service what are the advantages compared to the NHS?

A I believe in the NHS and if I could work the way I do now I would never have left, but midwifery is more to me than just a job, it is a commitment to an individual woman.

After working locally in two different trusts for two years as a new midwife, I soon realised I would not be able to stay in such a large organisation. I wanted to be one-to-one with women, to get to know them and their families. Evidence shows that one continuous midwife throughout pregnancy and birth improves all outcomes.

I was often so busy in the NHS that I did not have the time to really be the midwife I wanted to be or give the personal care that takes time. Now I have one woman at a time to give attention to and she knows I am a phone call away, 24/7. Women want to know the midwife who will care for them during their birth and know that she will not be going home halfway through their labour.

Q Would you say it is better for children to be born at home rather than a hospital?

A Absolutely. There are still those who believe hospital is the safest place but just because you believe something does not make it fact. Birth is a very safe and normal process, not an illness, and we have the evidence that for most women, home is the safest and best place of all to be.

You rarely hear women telling horror stories about their home births, although unfortunately when they do, it hits the news because it is so rare.

All babies used to be born at home, then, with no evidence to back up the information, the public were led to believe hospitals were safer and a whole culture was changed. We are now trying to change it back and increase the homebirth rate but it takes time.

Women and babies are more likely to end up with problems if the birth is treated as a medical event.

Q Do you think doctors too easily resort to Caesarean births?

A In some cases yes, but it is because they view childbirth as a potential problem rather than a normal life event.

They see the worst-case scenario and act on it, whereas midwives presume normal till proven otherwise. The more often something happens the easier it becomes and the more normal it seems, but Caesarean births are not normal and should be reserved for life-saving.

Q Can you tell us about some of the most unusual births you have been involved with?

A I travelled to Turkey last year to help a woman have a waterbirth and the press hounded us as it was so rare. I have helped women having twins and breech babies, vaginal births following Caesareans, but the vast majority are just normal woman wanting normal births.

The best home birth of my career, however, was just last week, when I helped my first grandchild to be born at home into his daddy's hands. It was an amazing family occasion and an hour after he was born we were all having a celebratory breakfast.

Q What would you say is the most rewarding part of your job?

A When I leave the house following a home birth, mum, dad and baby are all tucked up happily and have not been separated. After all these years I still want to run up to the postman and say "I helped that happen."

Q What role do you think fathers have when it comes to childbirth? Do you think he has to be present?

A What is right for one woman and her partner may not be right for another.

Some dads want to be fully hands-on and my role is to facilitate that. Some dads need to be down the pub and my job is to support them in that decision. I think couples are too pressured to conform to what society thinks.

QA

The partner in Kent Midwifery Practice explains to **Ed Hill** why she chose to work independently, why there should be more home births, and explains the satisfaction she gets from her role...

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Council tax review of singles' discount

COUNCIL tax benefit claimants are being warned to check they qualify for a single person discount as officials start a crackdown.

Council tax bills are reduced by 25 per cent for those living alone, but some may have partners or be unwittingly breaking the law, according to Swale council.

A spokesman said: "Officers have appointed Capita to undertake a review of single person discounts.

"They will work with Equifax, the credit reference agency, using data-matching technology to identify where people are possibly claiming a discount they aren't entitled to. The review will involve about 9,700 taxpayers and follows a smaller exercise in 2008-09 that resulted in savings of £120,000.

"Taxpayers who claim the single person discount improperly place an unnecessary burden on other residents."

Cllr Duncan Dewar-Whalley said: "It is important that we keep these records up to date and accurate.

"At a time when residents who pay their full liability may be struggling through the recession, this is a particularly important exercise."

Safely back to shore

SHEERNESS inshore lifeboat was launched to rescue a man in a small inflatable off the harbour last week.

The boat launched shortly after 3pm on Thursday after reports that a two-metre rib had run into difficulty after breaking down on the west shore off Sheerness harbour. The craft and its sole occupant were safely located and taken back to shore at Grain.

Judd's Folly ends cavalier attitude to historic venue

■ BY JILL HURST

OLIVER Cromwell and Winston Churchill were both visitors – but until recently you would never have believed it.

Standing in place of a once-majestic country house, the rundown and seedy Sydnale Hotel stifled hundreds of years of rich history.

However, the arrival of two passionate entrepreneurs has seen a remarkable reversal of fortunes for the site. Businessmen Chris Clements and Jason Wolverson bought the failing hotel nine months ago after spotting it on the internet and becoming intrigued by its past.

Chris said: "I was looking for a new challenge and after running hotels for other people for more than 20 years decided it was time to run my own. It's been hard work but a fascinating experience."

The hotel is now trading under the name Judd's Folly, in homage to its original owner, Daniel Judd. Judd, who was born in 1614, was a munitions manufacturer under Cromwell. The Ordnance Office's lead-caster by 1643, Judd was the main supplier of shot to the parliamentary army during the English Civil War (1642-51).

Diversifying in 1648, Judd turned derelict water-powered Faversham corn mills into the Oare gunpowder mills.

The output of the mill was crucial in the First and Second Dutch Wars. Around 1652, Judd



Picture: CHRIS CLEMENTS

NEW MODEL: The old Sydnale Hotel has been reinvented as Judd's Folly, named after a Cromwellian armourer

built an elegant seat in a pioneering classical style west of Faversham.

The house, called Sydnale, was known locally

as Judd's Folly with secret, underground tunnels believed to lead to the gunpowder mill.

Used as an Army base during World War Two, Churchill was a regular visitor. It burned down in 1961, but some original parts of the building have been preserved.

The time, effort and money invested into restoring the hotel has resulted in a charming and tastefully furnished venue set in three acres of open parkland, with distant views to Faversham Quay and the Thames Estuary.

Littered with old photographs and memories of times gone by, Judd's Folly is back firmly in the present.

"Our aim was to create a home from home," Jason explained. "Somewhere people can relax on big comfy sofas while they read the papers."

"It's important for people to know this is no longer a karaoke bar or late-night venue," said Chris. "It's a boutique hotel set in beautiful surroundings with good-quality dining."

The building will also house a wine bar – aptly named Cromwells – and banqueting rooms provide a venue for business functions, weddings and parties. Chris said he was keen to become part of the Swale community, purchasing local produce and eager to be included in town events. The project has also created jobs for four members of staff left high and dry by the doomed Conniston Hotel in Sittingbourne.

To find out more about Judd's Folly Hotel or for bookings, visit www.juddsfollyhotel.co.uk or phone 01795 591818. The hotel is now taking bookings for Christmas and New Year.

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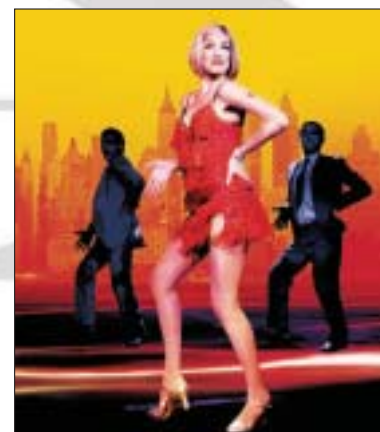
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Could budget cut mean end of speed cameras?

■ BY NICK AMES

TRANSPORT chiefs at County Hall are set to review the effectiveness of speed cameras – but they have ruled out a quick decision about the future of the network.

Councils across the country are considering scrapping the cameras altogether after the Government slashed £38 million of road safety funding, but KCC says it will review the situation before any decisions are made.

The authority has already slashed more than £500,000 from its speed camera budget for this year as part of a £15m savings plan, in line with other local authorities in the UK.

Cabinet member for highways Cllr Nick Chard said: "The Government has cut the grant for speed cameras and therefore we are going to pass that cut on.

"We have always seen speed cameras as potentially improving road safety and never as an income generator, but if there are some cameras that are not contributing to road safety then I would want to identify those.

"I want to discuss the cuts with the police and the safety camera partnership, because we haven't had the opportunity yet to properly reflect on what they might mean for the county."

When asked if KCC might follow the lead of other councils in scrapping some cameras, Cllr Chard replied: "I don't want to predict anything and I don't want to compromise the safety of road-users in Kent.

"It needs proper consideration rather than a very quick reaction."

As a result of the funding cut, councillors in Oxfordshire voted to switch off all 72 of the county's speed cameras from this weekend.

Networks in Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and Northamptonshire are also among those under review.

Earlier this year, the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership revealed that more than 33,400 speeding tickets were issued



DAYS NUMBERED? Budget cuts could mean speed cameras are scrapped, to the delight of Kent's motorists

to motorists in 2008-09, earning more than £2m for the central government pot.

But despite claims by the partnership of a 63 per cent reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured since 2002, motorists' groups say they want to see the cameras go.

Ian Taylor, Kent spokesman for the Association of British Drivers, said it was bad driving rather than excessive speed that caused accidents.

"There may be a few accident blackspots where speed cameras do a good job, but not

many. We regard them as an excuse for revenue raising. The money might not go back to the council but it ends up in the public purse," he said.

"I just hope that if they're taken away it doesn't open the door for more speed humps and 20mph limit zones."

The move to discontinue central funding for speed cameras was included in the coalition agreement.

Road safety minister Mike Penning said the Government was delivering on its pledge to "end the war on the motorist".

Electoral reform scheme 'doesn't go far enough'

A PLANNED referendum on electoral reform offering a change to the 'alternative vote' system has been met with cross-party derision in Kent.

Next year the public will be asked if they want to abolish the current 'first past the post' format for electing MPs – a referendum agreed by the Conservatives when forming the coalition with the Lib Dems.

Under the alternative vote (AV) system proposed, voters rank candidates in order of preference. Anyone receiving more than 50 per cent is elected, otherwise the person with the fewest votes is eliminated and their backers' second choices are counted.

However, some of Kent's most outspoken politicians say such a reform does not go far enough in ensuring a Parliament that is truly representative of the public.

Former UK Independence Party leader Nigel Farage, who lives in Westerham, near Sevenoaks, said the AV system would make very little difference to the current make-up of the House of Commons.

He added that many parties prefer the AV+ system, in which there is a top-up group of MPs whose election is based on regional votes for parties.

Preferential

Mr Farage, a South East MEP, said: "AV is preferential but still not proportional. You could still end up with a party like ours that attracts more than a million votes but still doesn't get any MPs.

"Nick Clegg has let his party down because this is not what they fought for."

The referendum, due to be held on May 5 next year, will pose the question – 'Do you want the United Kingdom to adopt the 'alternative vote' system instead of the current 'first past the post' system for electing MPs to the House of Commons?'

Shepway Lib Dem councillor Peter Carroll, who lost out to Tory rival Helen Grant in the race to become Maidstone's new MP, admitted the AV system was not what most Lib Dems were looking for.

He said: "I can't see that the alternative vote is going to revolutionise the system.

"It's wrong that parties like UKIP don't have a representative in Parliament. I may not agree with their views but a lot of people voted for them."

KCC Labour leader Cllr Leslie Christie said: "Last year was very bad for Labour. In the county council elections we received 17 per cent of the vote but only two per cent of the number of councillors, so there's a clear case misrepresentation. Personally I'd rather have a clear-cut government or council rather than one run by coalitions."

Cllr Christie's view is shared by Tory North Thanet MP Roger Gale, who added that the AV system was a "cop-out for people who can't make up their minds".

He added: "I don't want to create a situation where we are in perpetual coalition."

Kent MPs join call for referendum date change

FIVE of Kent's Tory MPs have signed an Early Day Motion calling for the voting reform referendum to be moved because it clashes with devolved elections.

Mark Reckless (Rochester and Strood), Tracey Crouch (Chatham and Aylesford), Adam Holloway (Gravesend), Bob Stewart (Beckenham) and Michael Fallon (Sevenoaks) are among 44 fellow Conservatives to have backed the motion.

They believe that holding the referendum on May 5 next year – the same day as the Welsh Assembly, Scottish Parliament, Northern Ireland Assembly and some local council elections – could "cloud the referendum debate".

Kent counts down to Olympic gains

TWO years from now the eyes of the world will be firmly set on the UK as the Olympic Games return to London after 62 years.

An official launch marked the start of the countdown at the Olympic Park in east London last Tuesday.

Kent will feature prominently during the Olympics and Paralympics, with 37 training camps for thousands of competitors.

They include Margate beach, which will provide training facilities for volleyball teams, Brands Hatch for cyclists, and Ashford's Julie Rose Stadium for athletes.

Cllr Mike Hill, cabinet member for communities at County Hall, said the authority was working to maximise benefits to Kent.

"We've got a large number of contracts worth about £20 million and we're expecting more to come," he said.

Cllr Hill said KCC is also focusing on the Cultural Olympiad which showcases the UK's arts and culture.

Asked how much money the Games could potentially bring to the county, Cllr Hill said: "The Open Golf next year is estimated to bring in £70 million through investment.

"That's bringing in a quarter of a million people, so we should bring in a substantial



GET SET, GO: Athlete Michael Johnson joins children at the Olympic Park to launch the two-year countdown

amount through tourism and business. We are very close to the Games, but we are also close to Europe."

To celebrate the countdown, sporting, cultural and art events took place as part of the Open Weekend challenge last week, when residents took part in activities ranging from belly-dancing to speed drawing.

Sport and Olympic minister Hugh Robertson said it was a great opportunity to get involved in London 2012.

The MP for Faversham and Mid Kent was at

the launch of the countdown at the Olympic Park with London Mayor Boris Johnson and former athlete and chairman of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG), Sebastian Coe.

Mr Robertson said: "London 2012 is in excellent shape. The construction phase is 70 per cent complete and the LOCOG has attracted an unprecedented level of commercial sponsorship.

"We are making real strides in developing a meaningful sports legacy which will be announced in the autumn."

Tuesday's launch was also part of a new campaign to invite volunteers to help out at the Games.

Organisers are searching for 70,000 volunteers, and Cllr Hill said several thousand are already on the Kent database.

In Medway, thousands of people marked the countdown with a one-mile fun run around Rochester. They were joined by sporting stars Paul Nihill, the 1964 Tokyo Olympic silver medallist in the 50km walk, and Liz McVeigh, a member of the women's rowing team in the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

To sign up as a volunteer go to www.london2012.com/volunteering.

BREAK TIME

Bishop gives pupils send-off at service

BISHOP of Dover, the Right Reverend Trevor Willmott, attended a service for pupils moving on from Bapchild and Tonge Church of England school.

The service at St Laurence Church, Bapchild, was also attended by the teachers and parents of those pupils moving to secondary schools in September.

A spokesman for the school said: "The youngsters shared their memories of the school, which included humorous references to a trip to the Isle of Wight, swimming lessons, a teddy bear's picnic and school plays."

Head teacher Teresa Homan praised the children for the contribution they had made to the school, and said she would miss them all.

Bishop Trevor said he had enjoyed listening to the children's stories adding: "Your memories all have one thing in common – friendship. As you go on to your new schools I hope you will take two things. One is that experience of friendship – someone caring for you and you caring for them. The other thing is the knowledge that God loves you."

Trust on the move

THE Southern Education Leadership Trust (SELT) has moved offices.

SELT, which offers a range of bespoke training and educational services to schools and local authorities, is now based at 1 & 2 Conqueror Court, Vellum Drive, Sittingbourne, ME10 5BH. Email sarah.march@selts.org.uk or telephone her directly on 01795 416809.

Pupils' Fairtrade jam wins national ethics competition

■ BY JILL HURST

ETHICALLY-minded students at a Sittingbourne school romped home with three out of seven awards in a national competition.

Youngsters from Fulston Manor School won the most innovative idea, the greenest idea and overall winner of the 2010 Ethical Enterprise Challenge.

The competition was organised as part of the Co-operative Group's national ethical enterprise school's challenge.

Pupils James Lewis, Daniel Elliott and Kerry-Louise Payne travelled to Birmingham with staff member Sarah Palmer and teacher Ann Menzies to compete for their award.

The three teenagers impressed the panel after setting up a jam and chutney tasting event for other attendees to try.

They were also required to present their work to judges, which included the finalist of the BBC's The Apprentice 2008 programme, Claire Young.

A spokesman for the school said: "Claire said our students' presentation was brilliant, and she had enjoyed listening to their many ways of raising money through their ethical business."

"Pupils in Hales house at Fulston Manor decided to undertake this challenge as a part of their annual charity event. The group of students who took part were overall winners for their business, which was created, developed and run from their tutor room.

"Supported by their tutor, Ann Menzies, the



ETHICS EXPERTS: Winning team James Lewis, Daniel Elliott and Kerry-Louise Payne with teacher Anne Menzies

whole group took part, and money-making activities included selling caterpillars to raise to butterflies in recycled jars, selling free-range eggs and making homemade jams and chutneys to sell using Fairtrade sugar.

"They also sold plants which had been grown from donated seeds, and brooches made from recycled fabrics which another tutor group made."

"The whole school is extremely proud of James Lewis, Daniel Elliott and Kerry-Louise Payne."

The Co-operative group supports young people to become active citizens, opening up ways

for them to change their world for the better, through education, opportunities and campaigning.

Their work is expected to directly benefit 250,000 young people across the UK, and help to produce a cultural shift in the way that young people are viewed and treated in this country.

To find out more about Fulston Manor School telephone 01795 475228 or email mail@fulstonmanor.kent.sch.uk.

To find out more about the Co-operative Group's ethics in action programme visit www.co-operative.coop/ethicsinaction.

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IN A FLUTTER ABOUT RARITY

One of Britain's rarest butterflies is making a dramatic comeback in Kent.

Experts reintroduced the pearl-bordered fritillary in 2007 after it disappeared in the county – and now it is flourishing.

It is a distinctive butterfly which should be easy to spot. It is a bright orange and black with what looks like white pearls on the edge of its hindwing.

A project to bring it back was launched by the Forestry Commission, Butterfly Conservation and RSPB. And it has been seen in record numbers in Tudeley Woods, near Tunbridge Wells.

After several years of coppicing there is now a good supply of plants for caterpillars, helping to boost the numbers of butterflies.

In previous years, it had been living in small numbers at just 10 sites across the south east.

Butterfly Conservation senior regional officer Dan Hoare said: "These projects are pivotal to the success of this butterfly's conservation in the future."

The project used butterflies captured from Forestry Commission land at Rewell Wood near Chichester. They were then transported to Kent, and the good weather also helped make the move a success.

Two apples a day keep the doctor away

WE'VE all heard the expression about an apple a day, but who knew that if the dose is doubled, the benefits grow even more.

New research suggests doctors could be worried if we all turn to Kentish apples to keep them away on a full time basis.

The findings are from ISAFRUIT, a research project partly paid for by the European Commission. Its researchers found that if we scoff a pair of apples a day, our cholesterol can be reduced by an astonishing 10 per cent.

Paddock Wood based Norman Collett Ltd is a member of the English Fruit Marketing Group.

Sarah Calcutt, its business development manager, said: "The health benefits of eating English apples as part of your daily diet are already well documented and researched.

"Now we are seeing the benefits regular consumption of two apples a day can have in helping reduce cholesterol levels."

And American Tammi Flynn, a dietician and author of the 3-Apple-A-Day-Book, recommends an apple before every meal will help us lose three times the amount of weight than previous dieting attempts without the apples.

She claims a triple dose of apples a day helped 376 people lose 6,312 pounds in 12 weeks.

The discoveries are backed by research carried out by Washington State University in the Sensory Evaluation Laboratory at the School of Food Science on Rubens and seven other varieties of apples.

It showed Rubens giving a balance between sweetness and sourness, with high apple flavour intensity.

Rubens was also judged high in firmness, crispness and juiciness.

Colletts started exclusively planting the Rubens in 2007 and has seen demand soar 400 per cent – it now has 140,000 trees dedicated to this variety.



Pub opening times review in bid to end our drinking culture

BY STEVE KNIGHT

A REVIEW of 24-hour drinking has been welcomed by the voice of Kent's police officers, who branded the legislation "a mistake".

Ian Pointon – chairman of the Kent Police Federation – said late-night boozing had created more problems than it had solved and had resulted in less officers being available to fight crime during the day.

His comments follow the announcement by Home Secretary Theresa May that the Government is to crack down on binge-drinking and give communities more power to oppose 24-hour pubs and clubs.

The proposals could also spell the end for anti-social behaviour orders (Asbos), with Mrs May saying a "change in emphasis" was necessary.

Mr Pointon said: "I think the introduction of 24-hour drinking without the requisite change in culture was a mistake.

"The idea was that we would somehow develop a Continental café culture but that hasn't happened, especially in town centres.

"The feedback I've received from officers is that they've had more problems with people since the 24-hour laws came in.

"They're also working into the early hours, which means they're not available at other times of the day when the public would like to see them.

"It's time to say let's have a long hard look at the licensing hours, coupled with the drinking culture in this country."

Mr Pointon's criticism of 24-hour drinking is shared by Kent's former Chief Constable Mike Fuller, who warned against its intro-

duction in an interview with KOS Media back in January, 2005.

In a follow-up discussion in April, 2006, Mr Fuller said: "I think the Government and the health authorities are going to have a very difficult task in changing the culture that exists at the moment where young people go out and get totally drunk.

"Now they have a longer period in which to do that, and our night-time economy has had to expand as a result."

According to the Home Office, about one million alcohol-related violent crimes were committed last year, with a fifth of all violent incidents taking place in or around a pub or club.

Cheap booze

Mrs May's licensing plans also include forcing late-night bars to contribute to policing costs and street cleaning, and a ban on the selling of alcohol below cost price.

The latter suggestion will come as a blow to supermarket bosses who use cut-price beer and alcopop deals to lure shoppers into buying other goods from their stores.

Mr Pointon said some such offers were "irresponsible" – a view shared by the operations director of the east Kent-based Thorley Taverns pub chain, Phil Thorley.

He said: "I think 24-hour drinking is actually a bit of a myth because so few 24-hour licences have been issued and many of those that had were rescinded because they were not being operated properly.

"It's easy to blame everything on 24-hour drinking when it's actually the below-cost selling of alcohol in supermarkets that is at fault. You've only got to enter a local park at night to see who is drinking it and what problems it's creating.

"Below-cost selling is good for supermarkets, but it's a real danger to our society."



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YOUR LETTERS

Awards opportunity for our youngsters

The Philip Lawrence Awards Network (PLAnet) is looking for groups of young people who have made a difference in their community to enter the 2010 awards.

Over the past couple of years I have met many young people from Sittingbourne and Sheppey and am well aware of the positive difference many of them make in our community, whether through volunteering, campaigning, getting involved in positive activities or helping others.

I think the time has come for their contribution to be recognised, which is why I am urging residents to nominate young people and give them the chance to win a coveted Philip Lawrence Award and £1,000 to invest in continuing their work.

The awards are open to groups of young people aged 11 to 20. For more details and to enter, visit www.philiplawrenceawards.net.

You can also read about previous winners, watch videos of their work, and engage with the network through Twitter and Facebook. The closing date for nominations is September 15.

Gordon Henderson MP,
Sittingbourne & Sheppey



Unpopular failures are ripping us off

Blogger Gary Wright knows how to stir up the sediment of state sector resentment against whoever dares to point out inconvenient facts. We ratepayers have been hit hard for no good purpose. Council tax is a life sentence and poor value, when one quarter goes into their pensions.

If councils were fit for purpose they would not be profit-chasing corporate copiers. They would not be resistant, rigid and unresponsive to human need for adequate public services. Why must public funding go towards profits? For 50 years councils have caused immeasurable damage to local areas and to individuals who found them negligent.

Council antics brought financial hardship, misery and worry for those forced to fund unproductive, overpaid state-protected, multi-headed bonus chasers.

If they don't understand or don't care that they are costing us the earth, then they must be made to care that they have failed to do their duty – to serve us faithfully and well without ripping us off.

Rita Grootendorst, by email

your blogger

Motoring institute should stick to issues of driving rather than that of cyclists, suggests Gary Wright



THE Institute of Advanced Motorists is busying itself with the habits of drunk cyclists this week under the clever headline 'Pedals and Pimms don't mix'.

With absolutely no figures to back it up, Neil Greig the IAM's director of policy and research called for, well, more research into cycling accidents.

As the director of research, if he wants more research, don't tell us, just get on and organise it.

I was shocked to read you can be fined up to £1,000 for riding your bike on the road while drunk. I have never seen such a court case and understand it's a technical issue of being in control on a public road, which would cost a fortune to gain a conviction and I don't think our busy cops will bother. Equally, I am surprised that IAM is bothering with this issue.

The IAM (that's the institute of smug drivers not a pet food manufacturer) points out "though drink-driving is socially unacceptable, many people wouldn't think twice about cycling after consuming more than the legal blood-alcohol limit for driving".

And, there's another nugget of advice contained in their statement to the Press, where it points out that a lot of drunk cyclists will be riding home in the dark "increasing the dangers involved". It also says that if the cyclist is in a collision with another vehicle "you are likely to come off worst". Well who'd have guessed?

I'm sure someone at IAM believed it was worth a

statement to the Press, but there are a couple of points with which I shall take issue:

Firstly, be clear all you folk at IAM, drink-driving is illegal. Cycling while drunk is not. Since there is clearly a balance issue if you are absolutely drunk, I think it unlikely that you'll cycle home anyway, but you can at least cycle to the pub, and then push it home.

Secondly, and more importantly, what the devil is the Institute of Advanced Motorists doing by concerning itself with such an issue? What next, drunks on foot who may stagger out into the road?

This kind of nanny-state demand for more research and, inevitably, more stupid legislation died with the last Labour government.

And good riddance. I don't much care for cyclists as I have said before (and there is a part of me that believe they should pay road tax or get off the road).

But if an adult makes a reasoned decision to get from point A to B knowing that he (or she) may have one too many so they choose to take their pushbike, then well done them. We have spent hundreds of thousands on cycle lanes so if they use those, what business is it of smug drivers? If a drunk cyclist crashes into a hedge on their way home, that is their business and I don't particularly care.

And neither should the Institute of Advanced Motorists. It should stick to recruiting members with good at driving commentaries and 10 per cent insurance discounts for their 'advanced' drivers and let cyclists live their lives as they want to.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, Gareth Arnold, on 01303 817025 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Swale blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yoursware.co.uk.

Chance to have your say on police savings

Kent Police Authority will be visiting shopping centres countywide to ask people where they would make savings in the police force if they were the budget holder.

Shoppers will be asked to vote on areas identified as of potential interest. The following categories will be put to the test:

- Emergency response teams – such as patrol cars.
- Back office – police civilian staff.
- Back office – police officers.
- Neighbourhood policing – local constables and PCSOs.
- 999 call handlers.
- Investigations.
- Specialist tactical units (firearms, dogs, marine etc).

The roadshows run until September 6 and will give the public a chance to meet KPA members and local police officers and PCSOs. KPA visited the Kent County Show last month and spoke to 600 people.

The locations to be visited are:

- Pentagon Centre, Chatham, Friday August 6, 10.30am-3pm.
- Bluestwater, Friday, August 13: 10.30am-3.30pm.
- Sainsbury's, Sittingbourne, Thursday, August 19, 10.30am-3.30pm.
- County Square, Ashford, Friday, August 20, 10.30am-3.30pm.
- Asda, Kings Hill, Thursday August 26, 10.30am-3.30pm
- Whitefriars, Canterbury, Monday

September 6, 10.30am-3.30pm.

KPA has to make cuts of more than £20 million in the next three years. We're faced with making difficult and tough decisions and it's important the public have their say.

I'm always out and about in the county, but really enjoy getting along to the KPA town centre roadshows. It's always encouraging to hear that most of the public are happy with the policing service they receive, and I always relay this information to the Chief Constable and senior officers. All the information from the roadshows won't go into a black hole. I personally give my commitment that we will listen and we will take the public's views along to our budget committee in February, 2011.

Ann Barnes, chairwoman,
Kent Police Authority

Disturbing questions about exam papers

NCT, the UK's largest parenting charity, has highlighted concerns that school exam papers may have been subject to the influence of commercial organisations.

The charity has come across two recent science exam questions presenting misleading and inaccurate information that would directly benefit formula milk companies.

One of the questions, which featured in a GCSE chemistry paper, also directs students to mistrust charities. The question presents a

label for a fictional packet of infant formula milk, called 'My Baby Food', as the basis for a question about calcium carbonate. It then goes on to other issues relating to formula milk. On several counts the information presented on this label is misleading, incorrect and in contravention of UK regulations. For example, it claims the milk is 'pure and natural' and makes claims about nutritional value which are not permitted in UK advertising.

The question then goes on to put forward several biased arguments, presented as 'information', including a claim that without free formula milk babies in the developing world might die of malnutrition.

This contradicts research estimating that about 1.45 million children die every year through lack of breastfeeding, mainly as a result of unsafe bottle feeding, as well as the UNICEF and WHO guidance on the risks of formula use in developing countries and in disasters.

Charities working to support mothers who want to breastfeed are also negatively caricatured in the question, in the guise of 'Mrs I M Right', founder of fictional organisation 'Responsible Mothers Are Us'. Her extreme views are framed by a reference to the fact that she has 'made a career in goodness' and is paid from donations by the public.

The marking criteria for this paper only judges a student's ability to interpret and accept the information presented, with no room to critique or dispute the claims.

In another example, a SAT paper

used in Key Stage 3 again demonstrates bias towards formula over breast milk, claiming fair comparisons between the two when in fact the information is presented without crucial context.

We are concerned about the fact these questions present inaccurate and misleading information to students in an educational setting, by bodies that are highly trusted and regarded as an authority on these matters. The GCSE paper in particular carries incorrect information that seems so inappropriate and so biased that it suggests the influence of formula companies, which would mean there is a much bigger principle at stake here.

We want to see these questions and any others like them removed and new regulations created to ensure no question can contain bias that would assist a commercial company. We are also offended at the misrepresentation of the role of charities, which are required to demonstrate benefit to the public. Such inaccurate portrayals should not be permitted in exam papers.

NCT has already submitted its concerns, supported by detailed evidence, to Ofqual and the Charity Commission, with a request for a detailed investigation into commercial influence on exam papers.

Belinda Phipps, NCT chief executive, by email

Victims of sex abuse deserve our support

There is little help out there for children and adults who have suffered rape or sexual abuse, except for charitable services. With the exception of a few forensic examination centres for rape victims dotted around the country, there are no specialist services available on the NHS.

Yet we have extensive services for drugs and alcohol, obesity and even smoking. The victims of rape and childhood sexual abuse are legion. Latest research in The Lancet tells us that between five-ten per cent of girls and one-five per cent of boys suffer sexual abuse and only 14 per cent of rapes are ever reported.

Family Matters saw 179 rape victims last year – a quarter of them under 16. Kent has only one, part-time, rape exam suite, at Darent Hospital. This is not good enough.

Our children and women (and some men) are at risk. We have to share the responsibility for stopping this abuse and helping those who have suffered it. Victims need specialist charities to be funded to support them throughout Kent.

Rape victims need a new 24/7 sexual assault referral centre in the East and Coastal area of the county to run in tandem with the clinic at Darent Hospital. It must be managed as a victim-centered facility by a specialist charity with victim-linked governance. North Kent PCT is about to commission £100,000 on helping people give up smoking.

Unlike sexual abuse and rape, smoking is a lifestyle choice and people can give up without help. Those who were given no choice should be your priority.

Malcolm Gilbert, operations director,
Family Matters, Gravesend



HAZARD: Most road fatalities are in rural areas

Focus on dangers of countryside driving

ONCE synonymous with slow Sunday drivers and tractors holding up the traffic, country roads were the means of escape from the urban grind.

But new figures have revealed they are now the scene for two thirds of all fatal crashes, where motorists have put their foot down despite not knowing what was around the corner.

And as well as the tragedy of the deaths, a massive £1.6 million is spent on each fatal casualty alone.

To warn people of the dangers, a country roads campaign has been launched by Kent Highway Services that looks to bring home the message to drivers not to take speed to the limit.

Campaigners say the main reason for such a high proportion of fatalities is the inappropriate use of speed in constantly changing driving conditions.

Steve Horton, Kent Highway Services road safety team leader, said: "The campaign is designed to reach everyone who drives in Kent. All drivers use a country road at some point."

Kent Highway Services hope the campaign will make drivers realise the many hazards on rural roads.

Royal blessing puts county in films spotlight

THE QUEEN has given Royal Assent to a new law that allows authorities in Kent to shut down roads to allow big movies to be shot.

It's been greeted as great news for the county, which has become the first area outside London to succeed in gaining the unusual power.

Films are big business and the Kent Film Office boasts it has created £14 million for the county already since it was set up just four years ago. This has been achieved with films paying for scenes to be shot in the county and the spin-off to local economies from visitors keen to see the actual locations.

Recent major movies made in Kent, at least partially, include *The Other Boleyn Girl*, at Penshurst Place, Dover Castle and Knole Park, starring Natalie Portman, Scarlett Johansson and Eric Bana; *Reese Witherspoon in Vanity Fair*; *Daniel Craig in The Golden Compass*; and *Sherlock Holmes at the Historic Dockyard Chatham*, starring Jude Law and Robert Downey Jr.

There have also been several other

■ BY MARIJKE COX

smaller titles like *The Calling* with Ramsgate actress Brenda Blethyn alongside Rita Tushingham, Amanda Donohoe and Academy Award nominated Susannah York.

The BBC has also made films and series in Kent, including *Emma*, which starred Michael Gambon, Romola Garai and Jonny Lee Miller; and *Is Anybody There?*, in which Michael Caine played an elderly man grappling with his own mortality.

Poirot was filmed in St Margaret's Bay near Dover; plus Bob Hoskins and Sean Wilton starred in *Ruby Blue* which was filmed in Thanet.

Red tape

The floodgates could now open for many more major titles. Hollywood is constantly looking to England for unusual locations, but closing roads is always a major red-tape hurdle that can take weeks to organise. With the new law in place, it can be done much faster, making Kent much more attractive to producers.



SCENE: More stars may be following Michael Caine to Kent

Kent County Council said the push for the law shows its passion and support for local business and the local economy by maximising the multi-million pound benefits from the industry. It became an Act of Parliament much earlier than expected after passing through without objection, it said.

The Film Office reassured residents they would not be edited out of the loop, and would be consulted should an application to close their road is made.

KCC said that while the law gives legal powers to close roads, the Kent Film Office will continue to work closely with local residents and businesses and take their needs into account.

Tanya Oliver, director of strategic development and public access, added: "This is really exciting for Kent. We can now offer filmmakers a real flexibility to meet their needs and that's going to make us an even more attractive prospect. I think our county is set for stardom that will benefit everyone."

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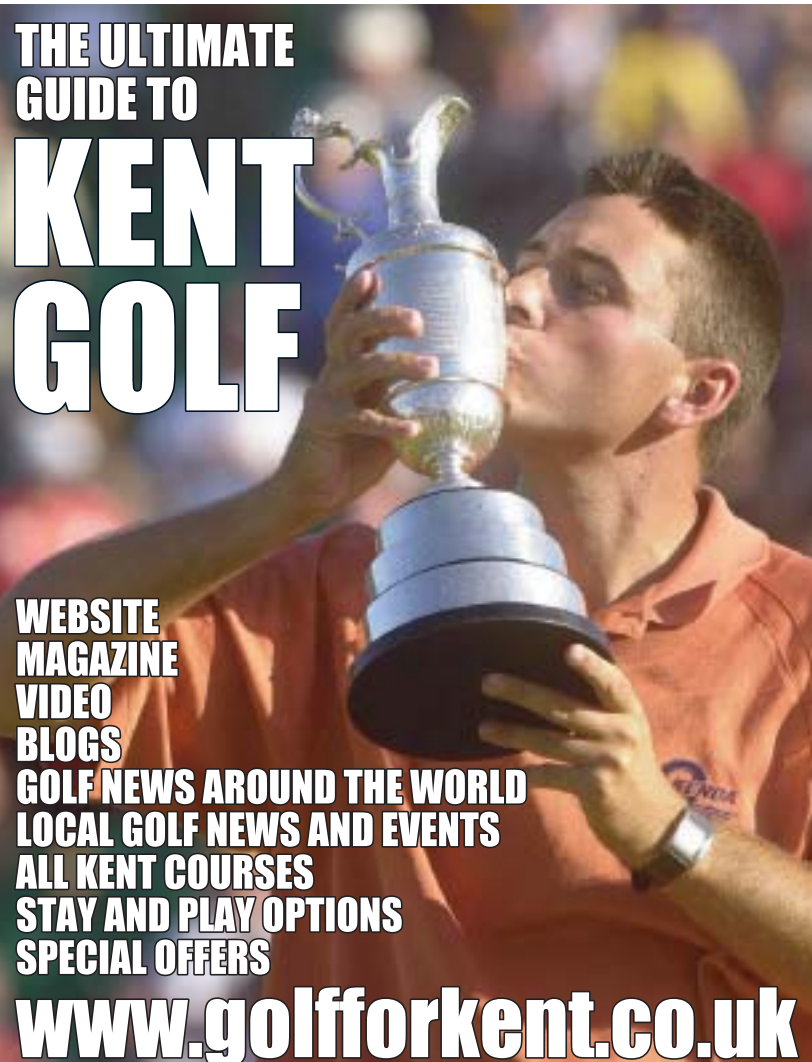
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LEISURE 18-20

STYLE 22

WEATHER 24

COMPETITION 25

CINEMA/TELEVISION 26

MUSIC/GETAWAYS 28



DAY & NIGHT

Discover Kent history

DISCOVER eight elements of Kent on King's English Magical History Tours.

The Canterbury company is offering guided tours on themes like the White Cliffs of Dover, Jane Austen's inspiration, the garden at Sissinghurst and the world of Charles Dickens.

Tours cost £35. For details go to www.kingsenglishretail.co.uk/tours or call 01227 840444.

Step out for charity

WALKERS can raise money for charity on the North Downs Walk Challenge on September 12.

The 17-mile route leads from the Wye Downs to Capel-le-Ferne in aid of the Caldecott Foundation which cares for vulnerable people. Entry is £15. Call 01303 815634 or go to www.thecaldecottfoundation.co.uk/northdownswalk.

Invitation to writers

ASPIRING writers are invited to take part in the Friends of the Folkestone Book Festival short story competition.

Entries must be up to 1,000 words and it must be a fictional, historical story connected to the Roman or Anglo Saxon settlements in Kent.

Email entries to shortstory@friendsof-folkestonebookfest.co.uk or hand them in at Waterstone's in Sandgate Road by October 1.

Theatre workshops

CHILDREN can tread the boards or work behind the scenes at the Granville Theatre in Ramsgate this summer.

The school holiday theatre workshop will run from Monday, August 16 to Thursday, August 19 and is open to ages four to 16. Admission is £60 per child.

Call Trudi on 01843 855000 or go to www.granvilletheatre.com for details.

Farming world guests

FARMING World is expecting some special visitors this week.

Today visitors can meet creepy crawlies and on Thursday children can bounce around during Inflatables Day. Mrs Back 2 Front will appear on Friday, before Magic Week starts on Monday.

To find out more call 01227 751144 or visit www.farming-world.com.

Twice the music talent

LOCAL guitar and vocal duo, Veronica Cowper and Jamie Moore, will be performing in Broadstairs next Wednesday.

South African vocalist Cowper and guitarist Moore, who hails from Canada, can be seen at the Lord Nelson at 3pm. Admission is free. To find out more visit www.jamie-moore.com.

Film fun for families

ENJOY great films in the open air when Freedayz returns to the Lower Leas Amphitheatre in Folkestone.

Family classics will be screened free this Sunday and on Sunday, August 22, after being decided by public vote. To find out more and see how young people can get involved in the project, visit www.freedayz.co.uk.

Celebrate folk in festival week

BROADSTAIRS FOLK WEEK

Friday, August 6, to Friday, August 13

Various venues, Broadstairs



BROADSTAIRS explodes with colour and music again this week when the annual Folk Week festival returns.

Now in its 45th year, the hugely popular festival will play host to more than 600 musicians, singers and dancers when they flock to Thanet to be part of the fun.

From big name stars like Martin Simpson, Show of Hands and Adrian Edmondson with his Bad Shepherds – whose concert has already sold out – to the up-and-coming acts, Folk Week is packed with more than 500 events.

Whatever their age, festival-goers are sure to find something to entertain and enthrall them during the week. There has been a particular focus on provision for children and young people this year, which means that every member of the family can discover the joy of folk.

Kim Headley, the festival's artistic director, said: "There's good news for budding young performers, as we have taken a good look at our children's programme and given it a few tweaks.

"Shooting Roots will run workshops for youngsters aged eight to 12 and 13 to 17 and there will be a chance to form a junior Morris side. Mick Scott's workshops for seven to nine-year-olds will be a sort of Recycled Marching Band meets the X-Factor, and popular favourites Toddler's Singalong, Story Time for the over-threes and English country dancing will all be back."

For many years the festival has provided the daily Hobby Horse Club for children, which keeps young festival-goers entertained in the mornings with appearances by Clarence the Dragon and the Hooden Horses. But there is even more on offer for youngsters this year and they will even have the chance to learn an instrument, rehearse with a band and perform live on stage at the end of the week.

This year the festival will be opened by Charlie Dore and the Hula Valley Orchestra, whose hit single Pilot of the Airwaves will be known to audiences.

Other highlights of the week include performances by the Demon Barber Road Show, the Shee, Mawkin:Causley, Chris While and Julie Matthews, Pama International and many, many more. The programme even features a silent folk electronica disco and begins, as ever, with a torchlight procession on Saturday.

Also performing is American singer-songwriter Rachel Harrigan, who has just embarked on an extensive UK tour. She will perform with Rod Clements, founding member of Lindisfarne and a renowned guitar and dobro player. They will be performing songs from Harrigan's latest album, along with her first two releases, *The Bootlegger's Daughter* and *City of Refuge*. Harrigan and Clements can be seen at the concert marquee in Pierremont Park at 2.30pm on Tuesday.



FESTIVAL LINE-UP:

Clockwise from above; Charlie Dore and the Hula Valley Orchestra; Chris While and Julie Matthews; The Shee and Rachel Harrington are among the 600 artists taking part in this year's Broadstairs Folk Week



There are more than 70 workshops taking place across the week, giving festival-goers of all ages the chance to try out such diverse skills as Appalachian clogging, banjo-picking and Bollywood dance.

Music will be performed everywhere from the big concert marquee to pubs throughout

the town and there will also be a craft fair, with the chance to make a holiday of it at the festival campsite.

For full event listings and booking information visit the website at www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk or call the box office on 01843 604080.



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ALL SHOOK UP

Wednesday, August 11, to Saturday, August 14
Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone



DUST off those blue suede shoes and get ready to rock 'n' roll with the musical, All Shook Up.

Local drama company Lights Up Production has teamed up with Folkestone-Hythe Operatic and Dramatic Society to stage the show. Inspired by the music of Elvis Presley, the show is a trip down memory lane for fans of 50s and 60s music.

Talented young performers will be bringing the swinging spirit to the stage in a show that features the music of Elvis, although it is not about the star.

"I loved last year's show,

Footloose, but this is going to be bigger and better," said Max Reynolds, the show's director.

"I have a superb cast of vibrant young players and a crack technical team. This may very well be the South East's best show this year. Working with the FHODS team at the Tower Theatre is a dream."

Tickets cost £12/£10, with a special price of £8 for the opening night. To find out more and to book tickets call the box office on 01303 223925 or visit the website at www.towertheatre-folkestone.co.uk.



QUEX PARK MAIZE MAZE

Running until early September, Quex Park, Birchington

GET lost in nature at Quex Park with the attraction's Africa-themed Maize Maze.

Visitors are invited to accept the challenge of finding their way through the intriguing maze, which this year is designed in the shape of an ostrich and its chick.

Admission to the maze costs £1.50 per person and the price includes a quiz and a puzzle sheet to guide intrepid explorers through the maze.

With its African theme, the quiz is educational and helps visitors to discover more about the fascinating continent.

With its relaxing expanses of trees and parkland, Quex Park is a beautiful 250-acre site set within a larger 1,800-acre estate. Planted by John Powell-Powell in the 19th century, the many trees provide a haven for more than 50 bird species.

The park also includes Quex House, dating from 1805 and the 1819 Waterloo Bell Tower, with its very rare secular peal of 12 bells.

The Maize Maze is open from 10am to 6pm, seven days a week. To find out more about attractions and events at Quex Park visit www.quexpark.co.uk.

SUMMER AT HOLE PARK GARDENS

Ongoing, Hole Park Gardens, Rolvenden

ESCAPE to paradise at Hole Park Gardens where the exotic border is lighting up the days.

With their vibrant colours and striking shapes, the plants in the border are at their best in summer and early autumn. Plants include cannas, daturas or angel's trumpets and solanum laciniatum, otherwise known as the kangaroo apple.

Keen to ring the changes each year, head gardener Quentin Stark adds exciting new plants to give even regular visitors a nice surprise. This year, the border features the strong pink flowers of salvia involucrata 'Bethellii', contrasted with the dark black and blue of salvia guarantica. With the hairy leaves and white flowers of the sparmannia Africana, or house lime, the rare yrachycarpus princeps palm tree and the red Abyssinian banana tree, the border is an unmissable highlight of any visit.

Hole Park Gardens are open from 2pm to 6pm, every Wednesday and Thursday until October 31. Tickets cost £5 for adults and 50p for children. For details call 01580 241344 or visit the website at www.holepark.com.



X

Friday, August 13, to Sunday, August 22
Quex Park, Birchington



VENTURE out if you dare and find out if the curse of 'X' will strike again next week.

Every member of the audience will be drawn into the grisly story when Fireraisers presents a ghostly murder mystery production in the beautiful grounds of Quex House.

Each spectator is a detective, suspect, witness and potential victim when an ancient curse is unleashed.

A dysfunctional, aristocratic family has been living under a deadly tradition for years and when a group of people stumble across a crime scene, they become unavoidably caught up in the horror. Amateur sleuths in the audience must try to identify the villain.

With a reputation for producing unique and memorable work, Fireraisers have performed in such diverse locations as Selfridges' shop window on Oxford Street in London and an oilrig off Brighton Beach, where their production of The Tempest attracted a record audience of 35,000 people.

To book tickets call the box office on 01227 787787 or go online at www.theatreroyal-margate.com.

FAMILY FUN DAY

Wednesday, August 4, Rare Breeds Centre, Woodchurch

GET involved in the celebrations as Canterbury Oast Trust marks its 25th anniversary today.

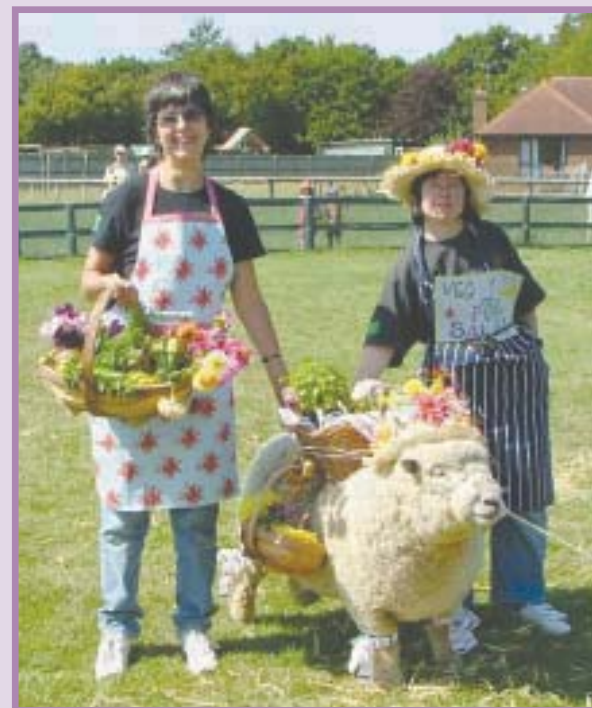
Visitors are invited to join in the revelry at the attraction's Fun Day which is packed with exciting family activities. Some of the highlights include pig washing, pig racing, the Mini Show and seeing who can boast the best costume in the Animal Fancy Dress Competition.

Anyone who thinks they have good balance and co-ordination can try their hand at circus skills or hang on as long as they can on the ferocious rodeo bull.

A mini funfair offers a variety of rides and visitors can also see Tanya Larrigan's famed Mini Marvels, the Shetland pony display team which has performed for Her Majesty the Queen.

There will also be an exhibition showcasing the work of the Canterbury Oast Trust, which provides opportunities for people with learning difficulties.

The Rare Breeds Centre is open from 10.30am to 5.30pm daily and on the Fun Day, there will be a special entrance price of £5 per person and free admission for under-threes. For details call 01233 861493 or visit www.rarebreeds.org.uk.



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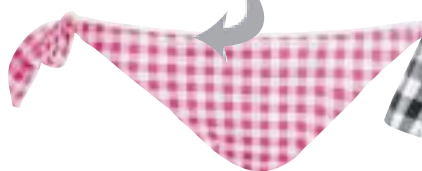
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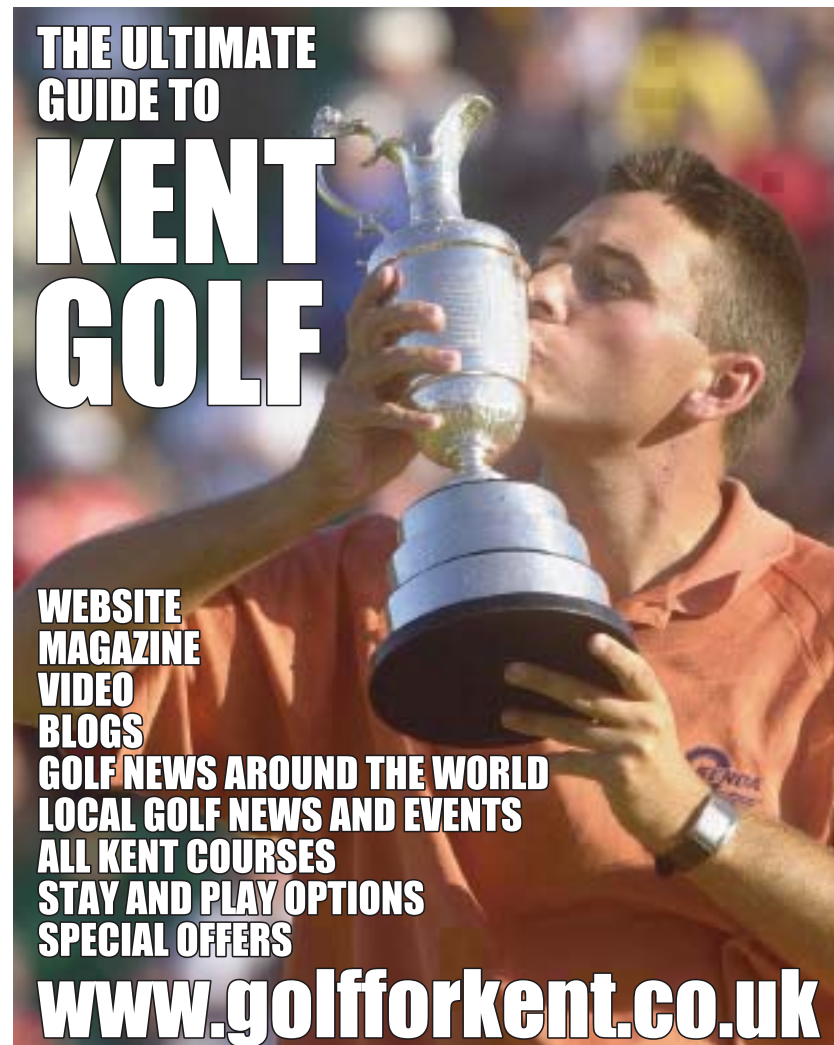
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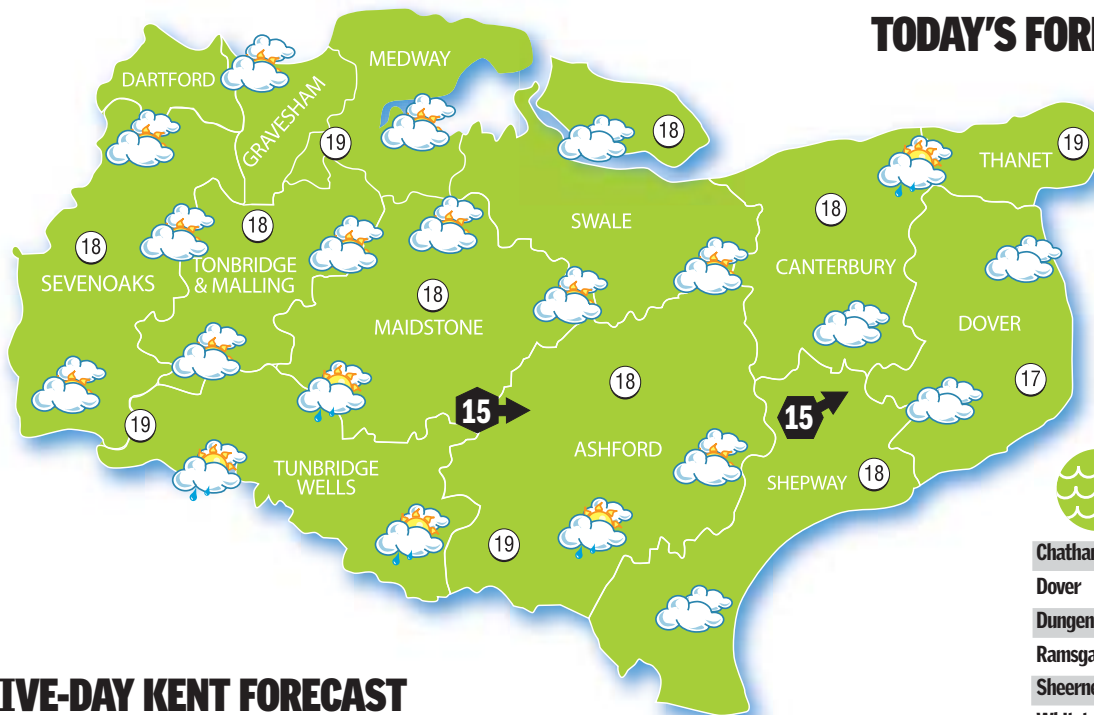


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TODAY'S FORECAST



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	21°C	Madrid	32°C
Athens	35°C	New York	24°C
Barcelona	29°C	Paris	23°C
Beijing	29°C	Rome	29°C
Bombay	29°C	Sydney	15°C
Cape Town	16°C	Tenerife	26°C
Cardiff	20°C	Tokyo	32°C
Gibraltar	26°C	Vancouver	18°C
Hong Kong	31°C	Warsaw	27°C
Las Palmas	26°C	Wellington	14°C



KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	10:55am 5.2m	Sunday	12:00pm 5.6m
Dover	Saturday	9:21am 5.7m	Sunday	10:20am 6.1m
Dungeness	Saturday	9:21am 6.3m	Sunday	10:21am 6.8m
Ramsgate	Saturday	9:51am 4.3m	Sunday	10:50am 4.7m
Sheerness	Saturday	10:43am 5.0m	Sunday	11:49am 5.3m
Whitstable	Saturday	10:43am 4.7m	Sunday	11:52am 5.0m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon												
Ashford	21°C	20°C	21°C	20°C	22°C	Dover	20°C	18°C	19°C	18°C	19°C	Gravesend	23°C	21°C	22°C	21°C	22°C
Canterbury	21°C	19°C	20°C	20°C	21°C	Faversham	21°C	19°C	20°C	20°C	21°C	Maidstone	22°C	20°C	21°C	20°C	22°C
Chatham	21°C	19°C	20°C	20°C	21°C	Folkestone	20°C	18°C	19°C	18°C	19°C	Ramsgate	21°C	19°C	20°C	20°C	21°C
Dartford	23°C	21°C	22°C	21°C	22°C	Gillingham	21°C	19°C	20°C	20°C	21°C	Rochester	21°C	19°C	20°C	20°C	21°C
												Sevenoaks	21°C	18°C	19°C	19°C	20°C
												Sittingbourne	21°C	19°C	20°C	20°C	21°C
												Tonbridge	22°C	19°C	21°C	20°C	21°C
												Tun Wells	22°C	19°C	21°C	20°C	21°C



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MOONRISE 11:48pm MOONSET 3:58pm

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yourcompetition

WIN a meal out at Café Du Village

CAFÉ du Village Bluewater restaurant is a warm and welcoming eatery serving a range of dishes influenced by the continent.

The restaurant interior has been swathed in creams and golds and is beautifully furnished with comfortable seating and booths. The menu at Café du Village restaurant in Bluewater has been created to offer a wide choice of dishes with just a hint of French influence where all the dishes are freshly prepared by the chefs, every day. This is ideal for a range of dining occasions, from a quick sandwich to a leisurely meal.

The restaurant provides a much sought-after haven from all the hustle and bustle of the Bluewater crowds including one of the best alfresco terraces in the Centre – the perfect setting to enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner.

Children are also well catered for with a specially designed menu incorporating some bespoke dishes with colouring activities and games. At Café du Village, families come first and to show you just how much, the restaurant is offering children the chance to eat free on Bank Holiday weekends and school holidays.

If you dine with us on the following dates, only the grownups have to pay for their food!*

Saturday, July 24 – Sunday, September 5.
Saturday, October 23 – Sunday, October 31.



All the Café du Village team look forward to seeing you soon.

Café Du Village are offering Yourlocal readers the chance to win one of SIX £50 vouchers to spend at the restaurant.

To enter, simply answer the following ques-

tion and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address and daytime telephone number to Café Du Village Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS. The closing date is August 9, 2010.



Question: What is the Capital of France?

- Rome
- Paris
- Madrid

* One child eats for free (main + drink + ice cream from the Kid's menu) per adult dining from the A La Carte menu. For more information.

No purchase necessary. For our full Terms and Conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or for a posted copy of the T&Cs call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry. Visit the restaurant online at www.cafeduvillage.co.uk/bluewater/restaurant/kidseatfree.asp.

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The A-Team are back with a plan that doesn't quite come together

BY DAMON SMITH

IT HAS been more than 25 years since George Peppard chewed on a cigar and uttered the immortal line "I love it when a plan comes together!"

Joe Carnahan's big screen revamp of The A-Team doesn't quite come together, lacking the low-rent charm of the original.

Indeed, nothing is impossible in this all-guns-blazing adventure for Colonel John 'Hannibal' Smith (Liam Neeson), Lieutenant Templeton 'Face' Peck (Bradley Cooper), Captain 'Howlin' Mad' Murdoch (Sharlto Copley) and Sergeant Bosco 'B.A.' Baracus (Quinton 'Rampage' Jackson).

Framed for the murder of their good friend, General Morrison (Gerald McRaney), the enterprising soldiers break out of military prison and hijack a plane, which is subsequently shot down by military gunships.

The quick-thinking quartet leap into an armoured tank – handily parked in the hold – just before the plane explodes, then parachute to terra firma at breakneck speed, shooting down the gunships using the tank's weapons systems.

Jessica Biel's plucky heroine, newly-demoted army lieutenant Charissa Sosa, isn't kidding when she observes: "They are the best... and they specialise in the ridiculous."

She gives chase along with tenacious CIA agent Lynch (Patrick Wilson) and his underlings.

The A-Team is preposterous, asking us to believe that each member of the squad possesses split-second timing to rescue their buddies from almost certain death.

Villains help the cause by delaying executions until the last second, as if they are expecting their plans to be thwarted.

Sure enough they are, reaching a crescendo with an overblown final showdown at the docks, on a ship laden with cargo containers.



TOP TEAM: Bradley Cooper as 'Face' Peck, Quinton 'Rampage' Jackson as BA Baracus, Sharlto Copley as 'Howlin Mad' Murdoch, and Liam Neeson as Hannibal Smith

Neeson is miscast in a role that demands far more charisma as the master tactician who vows: "I'd rather face a firing squad than betray you guys."

Thankfully, Cooper is a perfect fit for an incorrigible ladies' man, merrily flaunting his washboard abs to pique the interest of wives and girlfriends in the audience.

Copley is often unintelligible as "a functioning lunatic", who paints his face blue and pretends to be Braveheart, riding a hobbyhorse into battle against the English.

He bickers incessantly with Jackson's hard

man, who has the words PITY and FOOL tattooed across his knuckles.

Biel is surplus to requirements but Wilson has a ball as a dashing yet unconventional spook, who treats his perilous mission like a fun day out.

It's no surprise when Charissa berates Lynch for riding roughshod over her agents and he cheekily retorts: "CIA's got rules. They're just cooler than yours."

Carnahan augments most scenes with flashy special effects and a booming orchestral score from Alan Silvestri that seems to have

only one volume setting: deafening.

At least the theme tune is still recognisable beneath all of the clatter.

For die-hard fans, Carnahan affectionately pays tribute to the TV version with cameos from Dirk Benedict and Dwight Schultz, aka the original Face and Murdoch, after the end credits.

THE A-TEAM
Certificate 12A 



OLD MASTERS: Sandi Toksvig and Eric Knowles present Antiques Master



YOUR TV REVIEW ANTIQUES MASTER: BBC2, 8.30pm, Tuesday

LAST Tuesday, thoroughly deflated by my lack of ability to answer any of the questions on University Challenge, I found I had drifted into watching the next programme on BBC 2's schedule, Antiques Master.

The programme is presented by Sandi Toksvig and Antiques Roadshow regular Eric Knowles. It is a sort of Master Chef for antiques aimed at finding the country's top amateur expert in old stuff.

The start of the programme didn't look promising. The four contestants on show weren't exactly a bunch of lookers. In fact, they were as gnarled and worn-out as the furniture they had been asked to comment on.

The programme itself can't have cost an arm or a Chippendale leg to make either. The set dressing did a remarkable job of making a genuine stately home look cheap and the

BY ED HILL

sound appeared to have been recorded through an old baked bean tin and a length of string.

However, having laughed ungenerously at these losers and their boring interest in the bits of bone china and fascination with French glassware, I found myself strangely drawn into the programme.

It wasn't the objects on display – quite frankly, I couldn't care less about the commode masquerading as a writing desk or the Worcester cup with its hand-painted Chinese design that was a lot older than everyone imagined.

No, it was the people. At first they looked like the sort of hard-faced cads who might prey on your granny, offering her 50p for the Faberge ash-

tray she keeps her cotton buds in.

But as the programme went on, they became the most unassuming quiz hopefuls ever. I felt sorry for the psychologist from London who failed to get any points in the mystery object round. She looked so upset when she was booted out, not because she was desperate to win but because of the sheer embarrassment of it all.

Even the chap in the tweed jacket and bow tie, who I took an instant dislike to, turned out to be a bit of a bumbler, telling Sandy he was "utterly hopeless" when he got the value of a dining table wrong.

The contestants were all refreshingly nervous, unlike most of the public on the box these days who are primed to be as bubbly as possible. It is like watching a genuine Victorian parlour game on your flatscreen TV.



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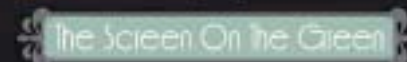
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Key to the Castle tickets are not valid for this event.



yourmusic

It's getting Hevy at Port Lympne



LEGENDS: Sepultura will be one of the headline acts at this year's Hevy Festival

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

THE hardcore Hevy Festival takes over Port Lympne Wild Animal Park in two days' time.

The rock-fuelled three-day event will host some of the world's loudest, angriest and darkest bands across four stages.

Headliners include legendary Brazilian metallers Sepultura and Birmingham's hardest rockers Napalm Death.

The main stage boasts the likes of Gallows, F*cked Up and Rolo Tomassi (Saturday) and Glassjaw, The King Blues and Medina Lake (Sunday).

Meanwhile, the Rock Sound Stage will play host to Danananaykroyd, Pulled Apart by Horses and March of the Raptors on Saturday and Sepultura, Napalm Death and The Black Dahlia Murder the following day.

Kentish talent comes by way of Pay No Respect, Breaking the Day, Alaska, Tyrannosaurus Alan, Lost in Colour and Bareface, among others.

Hevy bosses have also laid on non-music related entertainment for their paying punters, with a series of Gladiators-inspired fun fair rides.

Look out for Chaos, Superstar and Storm.

Hevy co-founders James Dutton and Claire Baker said the festival will be one to remember.

In a joint statement they said: "With a brand new venue and some awesome plans, this year's festival is what we've always wanted to bring to Kent – it's going to be huge!"

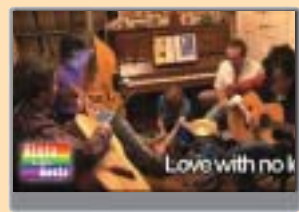
"There's some fantastic little festivals down here that offer a great family-friendly product. But we've always felt there's a need in this corner of the UK for something a little heavier, and that's what we hope to be – Kent's alternative music festival.

"We're really going for it too – with huge bands from all corners of rock, punk, hardcore and metal, insane extreme sports displays

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MUSIC FESTIVAL: A montage from this year's Lounge on the Farm



BAND PRACTICE: Zinta Egle and her band play Love With No Love



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Happy Daze - 14/8 Canterbury Conservative Club
- 2 Craig Sheridan - 15/8 King Edward 7th Pub in Dover
- 3 Stereohype - 20/8 Sellindge Music Festival
- 4 Flipswitch - 21/8 Maidens Head Canterbury
- 5 Fred Clark - 01/0 Hazlitt Theatre Maidstone

and some hand-picked, state-of-the-art thrill rides – everything on site is totally focused at the alternative market.

"And at just £69 for a weekend camping ticket, it's seriously good value too.

"Brace yourself, this is going to be epic."

Hevy takes place at Port Lympne from Friday, August 6 to Sunday 8.

For more information visit www.festival.hevy.co.uk.



A FRENCH VIEW: Quaint villages, history and stunning architecture are just some of the attractions when you visit Ardennes in France

yourgetaways

Visiting beautiful Ardennes is just a train ride away...

■ BY KATE WHITING

THE Ardennes, an area spanning the border between Brussels and France, has all the joys of the Gallic country's most popular attributes – quaint villages, stunning architecture, a rich history – without the crowds, and sadly also without its own wine.

In times of unreliable air travel, another big attraction is the area is well served by the high speed TGV train, and can be reached within a couple of hours from Paris.

It took us a morning to get from London to Charleville-Mezieres – the twinned cities which serve as the Ardennes' central hub – by Eurostar and TGV.

Best known as the birthplace of the poet Arthur Rimbaud, the city is incredibly proud of its heritage.

Rimbaud, sadly, was less proud of his birthplace and spent most of his youth trying to escape, eventually living in places as far flung as Ethiopia.

Among Charleville's other attractions is the Place Ducale, a Louis XIII square, built, like the city itself, by the young Italian prince Charles de Gonzague to rival Paris's Place des Vosges.

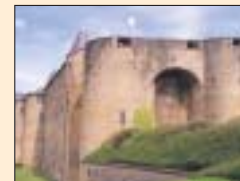
The Great Puppeteer's Clock on the facade of the Puppetry Institute is also worth a visit. Every hour the mechanical Great Puppeteer treats his spectators to a show, and every couple of years the city hosts the world's biggest puppetry festival.

After a day's sightseeing I was looking forward to the highlight of the trip: two nights staying in a castle.

Just half an hour from Charleville is the town of Sedan, which is over-

FACT FILE: ARDENNES

Population	65 million
Currency	Euro
Language	French
Time difference	+ one hour (GMT)
Religion	Roman Catholic



Kate Whiting was a guest of Ardennes Tourism, which lists short breaks on its website at www.ardennes.com/uk. Two-night hotel short breaks from around 130 euros per person include breakfast, dinner and a welcome drink.

Double rooms at Hotel Le Chateau Fort (www.hotelfp-sedan.com) start around £130. Breakfast is extra.

For travel by Eurostar to Charleville-Mezieres, via Lille or Paris, Rail Europe standard class returns start at £92 per person.

Rail Europe reservations: 0844 848 4070 and www.raileurope.co.uk. Car hire in Charleville-Mezieres costs from £291 for three days for a Renault Twingo, supplied by Hertz. Reservations: www.hertz.co.uk.

looked by the largest fortified castle in Europe, Chateau de Sedan.

The only small disappointment is that the owners haven't capitalised on its history. Rooms are done up simply, without four-poster beds or period furniture.

Fortunately the restaurant makes up for this oversight. With views over the courtyard and the fort's many turrets, a roaring log fire, and sumptuous paintings and red curtains. And the food is exquisite.

For lunch, we ventured out of the hotel and tried the effortlessly rustic Brasserie Artisanale du Chateau Fort, just opposite the entrance to the Historium.

Next stop was the peaceful Abbey Church and the Musee du Feutre (felt museum) in the town of Mouzon.

After another night at the Hotel Le Chateau, we headed for the hills, literally.

Near Olizy Primat, in the south of the Ardennes, is the Parc Argonne

Decouverte, which allows visitors to see nocturnal animals by day.

In a fenced compound along a discovery trail in the woods, lay a wolf, while in the park's darkened indoor mini zoo, UV lights reveal the scurrying of teeny harvest mice. Not a trip for the faint-hearted!

A warm goat's cheese salad and a glass of red wine in the "tree tops restaurant" calmed my nerves before our next stop, a museum of the Ardennes' metal-working history at the Domaine de Vendresse.

Our bed for the night was in the sweet village of Jandun at Jocelyne Bournonville's Chambre d'Heures (www.milaville.com).

More than a B&B, these French institutions offer a home-cooked meal with fellow travellers.

A scenic drive along the Meuse valley back to Charleville, with stops at the star-shaped fortifications of Rocroi and the town of Montherme, provided a beautiful end to our trip.

MOTORS NEWS



Third generation puts its Focus on endurance

FORD has committed to making the third generation Focus as tough as it is elegant – not that the current car is unreliable.

The UK market leader says pre-production versions – due next spring – have been thrashed over frozen lakes, hammered across deserts, and driven overloaded up high Alpine passes to test endurance.

The Focus remains a UK best-seller but – a sign of the times – has lost a once impregnable number one slot to its smaller stablemate, the Fiesta.



Join the Ibiza lifestyle club with Seat's new ST

CARMAKERS' efforts to create a smart supermini lifestyle estate have been patchy, but Seat has hit the spot with the new Ibiza ST launched this month, priced from £12,070.

It joins the sporty Ibiza SC and practical Ibiza five-door to offer more carrying capacity – the 430 litres of 'seats-up' boot space marks a rise of 138 litres against the five-door – without compromising the Spanish brand's racy image. It also comes with sporty turbocharged petrol engines as well as frugal turbodiesels.



Fiat plays its BlackJack 500 hand for the gents

ADDITIONAL female buyers have been attracted to the Fiat 500 cult car by the Pink special edition.

The Italian marque has now balanced this with one for the boys – the BlackJack (from £12,165) – a timely reminder that guys can be seen to drive the retro-styled baby car.

But they must be quick as just 200 of the matt black specials will be sold, based on the existing 1.2 and 1.4 Sport and featuring metallic exterior highlights plus matt black alloys and red brake callipers.



REAL DEAL: Despite a gimmicky interior the new BMW 5-Series is slightly larger than its predecessor and has a longer wheelbase allowing both driver and passengers extra legroom

Jumbo's imprint fails to dent this classy 5-Series

BMW's all-new 5-Series has a bonnet apparently sculpted by the weight of an elephant's backside.

But the latest 'Five' (from £31,360) is still classier and sleeker than its impressive predecessor and the fit and finish and materials quality is peerless.

It's gimmicky inside though: I found the sounds/sat nav iDrive interface irritating and the 'ergonomic' auto gearbox selector is also ugly and fussy to use – until you get used to it.

Once under way though, my mutterings subsided; this new BMW is a true class act and there's even a piece of new technology that I do like – the 'head-up' display for the speedo.

Despite being slightly larger than before, the car feels nimble and bows along beautifully with the use of aluminium for some bodywork, enhancing the natural balance of BMW's classic rear-wheel drive layout.

This adds to a mix of sure-footed handling and out-and-out cruising comfort that counter-attacks its arch-rival, the Jaguar XF.

The £1,495 extra for the 5-Series' eight-speed auto 'box also looks like money well spent; not only are the changes silky smooth whether in

ROAD TEST BMW 5-SERIES

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY	OUT OF FIVE
Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

auto or manual mode but, in the case of our £37,175 530d SE diesel test car, it manages to lower CO2 emissions (160g/km) enough to limbo beneath the upper limit on road tax bracket G thereby incurring a flat £155/year.

The six-speed manual's 166g/km though means a £250 hit in year one plus £180 thereafter and there will be benefit in kind consequences too.

On paper, the auto is marginally better on fuel as well – the official combined mpg is 45.6 against 44.8 for the manual – and yet both cars can leap smoothly to 62mph in just 6.3 seconds.

The lightweight 245bhp in-line six-cylinder diesel is a delight, delivering power freely and smoothly with a barely audible burble worthy of a V8 petrol unit.

The BMW also has a clear edge over the rival Jag in cabin space, where the new model's longer wheelbase allows even more legroom than before and greater passenger comfort, yet the boot appears more cavernous.

I was also impressed by the amount of kit that comes as standard – not a comment made often on BMWs in the past, especially so soon after launch.



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1156, JTD 16v Multijet Lusso, 2005, metallic stromboli grey, 39450 miles, £5562, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

156, JTD 16v Multijet Lusso, 2005, metallic stromboli grey, 39450 miles, £5562, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

159, JTDm, 2008, alloy wheels cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering trip computer isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black, 32782 miles, £13000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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BERLINGO, 1.6 HDI 600LX With Side Loading Door, km57unc, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, abs, air bag, electric windows, cd player, radio, side load door, white, 33000 miles, £4495, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6 HDI Refrigerated Chiller / Freezer, aaaaac, cd player, power steering, grrp, hubbard fridge standby available if required (optional extra), white, 15 miles, £9955, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

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BERLINGO, 1.6 MULTISPACE DESIRE, 2007, abs brakes cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue, 14986 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6 DESIRE, 2007, abs brakes cd player electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint tonneau cover twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, blue, 17398 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, HDI VTR, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel tremote audio controls, gold metallic, 4000 miles, £10495, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
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PROPERTY NEWS

Small price rise shows lack of market stability

THE growing uncertainty surrounding the stability of the UK residential housing market has been confirmed in the tentative rise in house prices recorded by Communities and Local Government.

Figures indicate that the average price of a UK home increased by 0.7 per cent between May and April, just 11 per cent higher than in May 2009, Government statistics show.

The adjusted average house price in the UK for May stood at £209,505, reflecting just 1.7 per cent growth for the preceding three months.

This month-on-month increase stands in contrast to the small increase recorded in the Nationwide Building Society figures and the declines reported by Halifax and the Land Registry for the same month.

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors chief economist Simon Rubinsohn suggested that "low transaction volumes" are adding to "volatility of the individual series".

Villagers 'being forced out by cost of homes'

YOUNG people in rural areas are finding it increasingly difficult to get on to the property ladder, according to PricedOut.org.uk.

The lobby group's press officer Katy John claims that affordability in the countryside is an increasing problem, with the average property now costing 10 times the average salary.

It is therefore time that the government recognises what effect the buy-to-let boom and the demand for second houses has had, she added.

In the latest research from the National Housing Federation, it was revealed that 65 per cent of people living in the countryside feel that first-time buyers are being forced out of their local villages by high house prices.

"The Government needs to establish and meet clear targets for building more homes in rural areas, particularly suitable homes for young families trying to get on the housing ladder."



'Right to Build' proposal to bypass planning laws

BY NICK AMES

VILLAGES will be able to build new homes without getting planning permission from their local authority if the Government's 'Right to Build' proposals come into effect.

The plan is meant to deliver the dual benefits of increasing the amount of affordable homes in rural areas and giving more power to local communities, as mapped out in Prime Minister David Cameron's Big Society proposals.

It is an attempt to move power in planning away from local authorities and enable villagers to have far more of a say in what is going to be constructed.

Mandate

Housing minister Grant Shapps has said the idea is that small developments of fewer than 20 homes can be built without planning permission.

Voting on proposals would be carried out during local elections and the Government says a large mandate in favour – maybe up to 80 per cent – would be necessary for the development plans to go ahead.

Mr Shapps said: "Loads of people in village communities are saying 'Our school's closing, our post offices are under threat, we're losing our community facilities'."

"Our problem is that the young people grow up and find they can't afford to live in this village any more."

"We believe that people have a right to stay in their community, and if people want to build that community to make it a bit bigger and expand it a bit, within reason, they should have the powers to do that."

But the Campaign to Protect Rural England



VILLAGE HOMES: Small developments might not need planning permission under the Right to Build scheme

(CPRE) said that the proposal needs a little more thought.

"A more democratic approach to house building is welcome, as local people should always be given a say in development," said the CPRE's head of planning Fiona Howie.

"We are pleased that the Government is considering how to protect and enhance rural village life, and delivering affordable housing in rural areas will be a critical part of this."

"However, bypassing the planning process is not the way to deliver it, and any proposals should include proper planning scrutiny."

"The level and location of development should be informed by a proper assessment of

local housing need and an understanding of whether the local environment can accommodate more development.

"This capacity should be assessed through democratic local plans, and not a simple ballot."

"A central part of the Government's wider planning reform proposals is to give local communities a pivotal role in shaping local plans. "The Government should focus its efforts on getting these broader reforms right, so that local communities are truly involved in planning for their area as a whole."

"This, rather than a new Right to Build, should ensure local people are able to shape future development in their areas."

Rise in sales 'unlikely to be sustained'

NEW figures from HM Revenue & Customs show the number of homes sold in the UK rising to 86,000 in June.

Completed transactions on properties worth over £40,000 increased by an annual 15 per cent having leapt 21 per cent in May.

The summer bounce also took volumes for the first six months of the year up 21 per cent on the comparable period of 2009.

However, housing market activity remains weak and analysts predict a flat second half of the year at best in terms of prices and sales.

An influx of new instructions for sale follow-

ing the abolition of Home Information Packs is putting pressure on prices while new buyer enquiries remain restricted by a lack of mortgage finance.

Halifax reported a 0.6 per cent fall in the average value of a home in June, with the annual rate of gain easing back to 6.3 per cent, and according to Rightmove, home owners coming onto the market are dropping asking prices, for the first time this year.

The property portal has detected a 0.6 per cent decline in the average new vendor's ambitions in July, amounting to £1,435 in cash.



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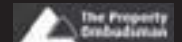
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SUPPORT WORKERS

Required

To assist in the provision of complete range of social, physical and personal care to adults with learning and physical disabilities, with the aim to enhance their independence in all areas. Position part-time. Varied hours. Need to drive due to locations. For more information contact Sally Brooks Tel: 01795 886220 or email: ellenscourt@btconnect.com

To advertise in this section

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£20 - £22K pa (dependant on experience), 42 hours per week

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The post holder will be responsible for the day to day management and operation of the nursery to deliver a quality childcare experience for our customers. Applicants must have an NVQ level 3 in childcare or NNEB qualification (or equivalent) with at least 4 years post qualification experience gained in a similar setting. They must also be able to demonstrate good business and financial management skills.

To register your interest in this position please call our Head Office on 01843 868302 to request an application form and job and person specification

Closing Date: Monday 9th August 2010

HEAD TEACHER

(Group 1) Salary Scale: L1 – L18
St. John's Church of England VC Infant School,
4 New Street, Chatham. ME4 6RH Tel: (01634) 844135

Following retirement, our friendly, one-form entry school in central Chatham needs a caring, enthusiastic and forward-thinking head-teacher, starting January 2011. With a strong Christian ethos, the school celebrates cultural diversity, working closely with the local community, the local Parish Church and as a feeder school with Balfour Junior School. The new head teacher will value and develop these relationships. With proven management experience at KS1, you will build and manage a team to continue a 148 year tradition of excellent education for pupils of all abilities and backgrounds in a "happy and harmonious atmosphere" (Ofsted 2009).

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Please phone Mrs. L. Day at the school from 1st September to make an appointment.

St. John's Infant School is committed to safeguarding young people. The post is subject to an enhanced CRB check. Applications will only be accepted by application form and supporting letter. References will be taken up before interviews, to be held during the week beginning 27th September.

For an application pack, please contact: Susan Bowers, HR Services, Schools, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham. Kent ME4 4TR Tel: (01634) 331100 email susan.bowers@medway.gov.uk

Starting date: 1st January 2011
Closing date for applications: 1pm Friday 17th September



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Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

Advanced Skills Lecturer in Civil Engineering Ref: P0333

Salary: c40K per annum
Medway

We are looking to recruit an outstanding individual to teach and participate in leading the development of Civil Engineering programmes across the Faculty of Design and Construction. The successful candidate will possess qualities of reliability, have good communication skills and hold a Degree or higher qualification in Civil Engineering or a related specialism. Previous industry experience is essential. The ideal candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

CLOSING DATE: Friday 20 August 2010
INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD THE WEEK COMMENCING 30 AUGUST 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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Technician - Tunbridge Wells
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Please forward your CV with a covering letter to: Nicky Simmons, HR & Training Manager, Waters AutoPlanet, Bircholt Road, Parkwood, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 9XY or email: nsimmons@argltd.co.uk Full UK driving licence essential.



All applications are treated in the strictest of confidence. We are an equal opportunities employer.



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We are looking for an exceptional sales person for a field sales position covering the Maidstone area
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To advertise in this section



01303 817040

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

Lecturer in Travel and Tourism

Ref: P0154

Salary: £24,096 - £27,881 per annum/pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Full time, part time and hourly paid positions available, Medway

We have exciting opportunities available for outstanding candidates to deliver and participate in the development of the Travel and Tourism programmes. Responsibilities will include establishing and developing travel and tourism industry contacts to enhance the students learning experience. A recognised Travel and Tourism qualification is essential. The successful candidates will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday 4 August 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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The Westlands School



Following the success of the initiative to reduce the number of hours that a teacher has to spend covering for absent colleagues we require as soon as possible another
LESSON SUPERVISOR

This post is designed to provide supervision of classes in the absence of the subject teacher or form tutor. The job is not a teaching role but will require good classroom management skills as well as a confident personality, a good presence and excellent communication skills.

Applicants should be well educated, preferably to further education level, and have experience of giving support in the classroom, preferably as a Teaching Assistant, although other qualifications and personal/work experiences will be taken into account.

Employment will start after a one-week paid in-service training course. There will be a six-month probationary period.

8.25am - 3.20pm with 1 hr unpaid breaks, term time only plus 1 staff training day and 25 days paid holiday a year, or as relevant to years of service in a similar post.

Salary starting at £16,793 rising to £18,471 (pro-rata)
(equal to £12,516 - £13,766 depending on experience)

Recruitment packs are available from the school or online. Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form. Closing date,

Friday 27 August 2010

The Westlands School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.



Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email: office@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher: J Whitcombe MA



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KCA (UK) Psychological Therapy Providers (PTP) provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services.

You will provide an excellent administrative and secretarial service to the PTP team, so you will need proficiency in copy typing, minute-taking and data inputting, as well as experience of working independently. A sound understanding and experience of using a range of computer applications, including Microsoft Access and Excel, are required. An understanding of statistics and basic data analysis is desirable, although a willingness to learn would be acceptable.

You will need to be able to respond to people in a professional manner and have good communication skills.

Should you wish to discuss this role informally, please contact Smita Derodra or Karl Grice on 01795 590212.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590795 and select option three. Please quote reference number 688.

Closing date: Friday 6 August 2010.

Interview date: Thursday 19 August 2010.

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Thanet College is going through exciting times in its drive towards being outstanding. The vacancies below give you the opportunity to be a part of the new management team:

- **Head of Division for Technology**
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- **Head of Division for Life and Work**
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- **Head of Division for Student Support**
Salary scale: £41,974 - £48,128 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Programme Area Manager - Foundation Vocational (Entry)**
Salary scale: £33,917 - £38,358 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Programme Area Manager - Construction**
Salary scale: £33,917 - £38,358 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Cross Curriculum Manager - 14 to 19**
Salary scale: £33,917 - £38,358 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Cross Curriculum Manager - Employability & Community**
Salary scale: £33,917 - £38,358 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Cross Curriculum Manager - Higher Education**
Salary scale: £33,917 - £38,358 for 37 hours per week all year
- **Cross Curriculum Manager - Additional Learning Support**
Salary scale: £33,917 - £38,358 for 37 hours per week all year

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Closing date: Friday 6 August 2010
Interview Dates: Thursday 12 August/Friday 13 August 2010

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination



NAS KENT SERVICES - GRAVESEND

The National Autistic Society is a charity which runs special schools and adult centres throughout the country and provides a range of support services for people with autism and their carers.

Does 'difference' attract you? Can you accept that each bit of progress may bring a new problem? Are you willing to adapt your natural style of social interaction? Have you got high levels of imagination? Are you prepared to work in a team?

Senior Practitioner

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A fantastic opportunity for a focused individual to take on the role of house senior working in Gravesend.

You will work with and deputise for the Registered Manager to ensure a high quality service, care and manage the smooth running of the home. Minimum of 2 years experience within the care profession and preferably have some knowledge of autism. You will be working a flexible schedule including evening and weekends.

Salary range £18,470 - £27,359 dependent on experience.

If you have the ability to lead and motivate others with good communication skills both written and verbal and you wish for the opportunity to step up to a new challenge please phone 01474 535057 for an application form and job description.

Applications are sought from all suitably qualified sections of the community but particularly welcome from those with a diagnosis of autism or Asperger's Syndrome.

Closing date for applications: 26 August 2010.
Interview date will be confirmed to successful applicants.



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St Joseph's Preparatory School

Requires for the start of this academic year from 1 September 2010

SCHOOL SECRETARY/PA TO THE HEADTEACHER

Applications are invited from motivated, enthusiastic, well-organised, experienced secretaries, preferably with an understanding of the administration needs of a busy Independent School Office, who will be sympathetic to the Catholic ethos of the School.

For further information and an application form please contact the Headteacher: Mrs Carola Timney - headteacher@sjcps.org

46 Old Road East, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1NR
Tel: 01474 533012 Fax: 01474 363132
www.sjcps.org



CITY VIEW PRE-SCHOOL & NURSERIES LTD



City View Pre-school and Nurseries Ltd wish to employ the following;

- Qualified and experienced SUPERVISOR required for their under 2 year olds room.
- BREAKFAST / AFTER SCHOOL CLUB ASSISTANT (16 hours approx). Play work qualification are preferable but not essential.

Both positions commence September 2010 and are subject to term time only (at present). Previous experience essential from all applicants.

Enhanced CRB check will be sought for successful candidate.

Application packs will be sent to those leaving a name / address clearly on 01227 784694 or please email mrsdawn.williams@virgin.net.

Closing date - Monday 16th August 2010

The Westlands School



Teaching Assistant

Required for September 2010

To work at The Westlands Primary School, Homewood Avenue

Applicants should have the necessary skills to support pupils who have various learning difficulties in mainstream classes, in small groups or on an individual basis.

27 hours a week, term time only.

Kent Pay Band 2/3 £12,903 - £15,984 (pro rata) (equal to £7,765 - £9619 depending on experience)

You are welcome to contact the school for a preliminary discussion if desired. Recruitment packs are available from the school or online.

Closing date, Friday 20 August 2010

The Westlands School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF
www.westlands.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email: office@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher:
J Whitcombe MA

PUBLIC NOTICE

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004 APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made by Lil-Mae Smith of Elmley RSPB Nature Reserve, Kings Hill Farm, Elmley, Sheerness to Kent County Council, to grant an approval for a ceremony at this premise.

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper.

Objections should be sent to the following address
Giles Adey, Head of Registration
Invieta House
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CRICKET

BY STEVE TERVET

Kent League Division Five

Macknade 1st XI v Blackheath 3rd XI

MACKNADE took a giant step towards promotion on Saturday as they edged out Blackheath 3rds by three runs to move 29 points clear at the top of Division Five.

The visitors started the day with hopes of overhauling the leaders, but fell agonisingly short in a thrilling encounter which could prove the key to Macknade's season.

Blackheath won the toss and put Macknade in to bat and the hosts made a solid start to their innings as Phil Rowcroft (27) and Kaylem Short (45) put on 56 for the first wicket.

Even when Rowcroft was bowled by Chris Brassington, the home side continued to build and Steve Taylor helped them to a healthy position at 90 for 2 by the time he departed. However, wickets began to tumble and Andrew Machin (44) was the only other batsman to resist the Blackheath attack as the home side were bowled out for 178, with James Martin collecting 4 for 45.

In reply, Blackheath made a promising start with Mitu Ahmed (29) and Matt Orford (62) giving them a platform, but three wickets then fell in quick succession and Macknade's tails were suddenly up.

Stubborn batting from Martin and Hamish Purdey kept Blackheath's hopes alive, though, and they took the contest right to the wire before Jamie Rigden took the final wicket to finish with figures of 5 for 31 and edge his side closer to the title.

Macknade close in on title after narrow win



CLOSE TO THE EDGE: A three-run win was enough for Macknade to defeat title rivals Blackheath and open up a 29-point lead at the top

SCORE CARD

Macknade 1st XI

	Runs
Phil Rowcroft	b Brassington 27
Kaylem Short	lbw b Brassington 45
Steve Taylor	ct Ofem b Brassington 13
Chris Smith	ct Ahmed b Martin 2
Andrew Machin	st Ahmed b Mahoney 44
Scott Davenport	b Martin 16
Lee Rigden	lbw b Ali 4
Terry McDowell	ct Ahmed b Martin 5
Jamie Rigden	ct Brassington b Martin 2
James Jarrett	not out 0
Darryl Cook	ct Ryan b Carter 5

Extras (5b 9lb 1w) 15
Total (all out, 474 overs) 178

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Chris Brassington	12	2	36	3
Daniel Carter	64	0	34	1
Shojib Ali	8	0	36	1
James Martin	15	1	45	4
Morgan Mahoney	6	2	13	1

Blackheath 3rd XI

	Runs
Mitu Ahmed	ct Taylor b Rowcroft 29
Matt Orford	lbw b Rigden 62
Joe Ryan	lbw b Rowcroft 0
Endurance Ofem	ct Short b Rowcroft 2
Hamish Purdey	ct Machin b Rigden 25
Babar Popal	st McDowell b Jarrett 2
James Martin	ct McDowell b Jarrett 23
Shojib Ali	b Rigden 4
Daniel Carter	lbw b Rigden 11
Chris Brassington	lbw b Rigden 4
Morgan Mahoney	not out 4

Extras (4b 4lb 1w) 9
Total (all out, 49 overs) 175

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Kaylem Short	4	0	28	0
Phil Rowcroft	12	3	41	3
Darryl Cook	7	0	30	0
Jamie Rigden	14	2	31	5
James Jarrett	12	1	37	2

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

Gore Court 1st XI v Hartley Country Club 1st XI

THE inevitability of Gore Court's relegation from the Premier Division drew a step closer on Saturday as Karl Pearson's side lost to Hartley by eight wickets.

Court are 59 points adrift of safety and with only five games remaining, the statistics are stacked against them following this, their ninth defeat of a miserable campaign.

Tyler Griffin hit 86 in Court's total of 149, but he received no support and Hartley had little trouble picking off the runs, with Sam Billings unbeaten on 47 as the visitors wrapped up victory inside 23 overs.

Gore Court 1st XI

	Runs
Karl Pearson	b Thompson 1
Alex Campbell	ct Billings b Thompson 4
Tyler Griffin	ct Underwood b Thompson 86
Aaron Glass	lbw b Hemphrey 10
Philip Edwards	ct Billings b Hemphrey 16
Charles MacLeod	lbw b Cramp 5
Steve Salisbury	ct Thompson b Carter 2
Jamie Lavers	ct Cramp b Thompson 5
Alex Edwards	c&b Carter 2
Nathan Foster	b Thompson 0
Adam Collins	not out 0
Extras	(1b 1lb 10w) 12
Total	(all out, 47 overs) 149

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
James Thompson	10	2	14	5
Daniel Redwood	6	2	18	0
Charlie Hemphrey	10	0	43	2
Darrell Carter	10	1	41	2
Min Patel	7	1	22	0
James Cramp	4	0	9	1

Hartley Country Club 1st XI

	Runs
Min Patel	ct Lavers b Pearson 30
Scott McKechnie	b Griffin 24
Sam Billings	not out 47
Charlie Hemphrey	not out 45
Darrell Carter	did not bat
Rizwan Malik	did not bat
James Thompson	did not bat
James Cramp	did not bat
Jack Redden	did not bat
Stuart Underwood	did not bat
Daniel Redwood	did not bat
Extras	(4lb 2w 1nb) 7
Total	(2 wickets, 22.4 overs) 153

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Adam Collins	4	0	32	0
Philip Edwards	2	0	24	0
Karl Pearson	5	0	32	1
Tyler Griffin	5	0	17	0
Alex Edwards	4.4	0	32	0
Jamie Lavers	3	0	12	0

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

Minster 1st XI v HSBC 1st XI

STUBBORN lower-order batting ensured Minster held on to claim a losing draw at home to HSBC on Saturday.

However, were it not for a middle-order collapse, the hosts may have gone on to win, after Gareth Whetnall (78) had given them the perfect start in pursuit of HSBC's total of 242.

Adam Coleman (70) and Alan Slater (76 not out) starred with the bat for HSBC, who closed their 50 overs on 241 for 6. Minster then posted 223 for 8 with Callum Hughes unbeaten on 37.

HSBC 1st XI

	Runs
Richard Golbourn	b Tucker 38
Adam Coleman	c&b Grundy 70
Alan Slater	not out 76
Jack Potter	ct Weller b Grundy 13
Stuart Bate	ct Whetnall b Mohmand 16
Richard Slater	ct Whetnall b Tucker 2
Tom Hutton	run out 6
William Holcombe	not out 2
Jack Robertson	did not bat
Sam Perks	did not bat
Liam Jensen	did not bat
Extras	(4b 6lb 8w) 18
Total	(6 wickets, 50 overs) 241

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Adil Mohmand	9	1	47	1
Mike Rees	15	5	29	0
James White	4	0	26	0
Mark Tucker	15	0	80	2
Gareth Whetnall	2	0	13	0
Sam Grundy	5	1	37	2

Minster 1st XI

	Runs
Gareth Whetnall	lbw b Coleman 78
Neil Hosken	ct Potter b Bate 16
George Duggan	lbw b Coleman 21
Andy Hosken	ct R Slater b A Slater 1
Mark Tucker	ct Potter b A Slater 1
Jordan Weller	lbw b A Slater 2
James White	b Coleman 0
Sam Grundy	ct Golbourn b Bate 14
Callum Hughes	not out 37
Mike Rees	not out 19
Adil Mohmand	did not bat
Extras	(4b 9lb 10w 2nb) 25
Total	(8 wickets, 50 overs) 223

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Liam Jensen	8	0	46	0
Stuart Bate	7	1	33	2
Adam Coleman	15	0	42	3
Alan Slater	10	0	36	3
Richard Golbourn	4	0	24	0
Jack Robertson	7	0	31	0

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

Upchurch 1st XI v Addington Village 1st XI

UPCHURCH remain embroiled in a fascinating promotion race at the top of Division Three after claiming a winning draw at home to leaders Addington Village.

However, the hosts were unable to take the final two wickets needed for a victory which would have taken them top of the table with five games remaining.

Michael Hales hit 106 as Upchurch posted 261 from their 50 overs, and although Daniel Parker took 4 for 34, Addington held on in their reply to close on 133 for 8.

Upchurch 1st XI

	Runs
Michael Hales	c&b Brown 106
Andrew Shirley	ct Tooze b Walton 24
Adam Hodder	ct Brown b Walton 8
Theo Barnett	lbw b Buet 30
Michael Hales jnr	b Buet 13
Lee Stepmey	ct Pigott b Brown 13
Marc Bond	ct Down b Brown 9
Alan Collis	not out 25
Daniel Parker	lbw b Brown 2
Kevin Cunningham	ct Buet b Brown 3
Craig Bewick	run out 0
Extras	(13b 5lb 9w 6nb) 33
Total	(all out, 50 overs) 261

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Dan Walton	11	2	50	2
Tom Nissen	7	0	52	0
Joe Pigott	7	0	22	0
Ray Van Schoor	4	0	32	0
Duncan Brown	11	0	51	5
Ben Buet	10	0	36	2

Addington Village 1st XI

	Runs
Will Jeffery	ct Hales jnr b Bond 6
James Tooze	lbw b Parker 12
Joe Pigott	ct Shirley b Parker 13
Ray Van Schoor	b Parker 8
Duncan Brown	ct Bewick b Bond 6
Ben Buet	not out 11
Tom Down	lbw b Hodder 41
Tom Nissen	ct Hales b Parker 1
Chris Slater	ct Shirley b Hales jnr 7
Dan Walton	not out 4
James Fullagar	did not bat
Extras	(10b 8lb 5w 1nb) 24
Total	(8 wickets, 50 overs) 133

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Marc Bond	15	3	48	2
Daniel Parker	13	4	34	4
Adam Hodder	8	5	14	1
Kevin Cunningham	4	0	4	0
Theo Barnett	4	0	9	0
Craig Bewick	4	0	3	0
Michael Hales jnr	2	0	3	1

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

Rodmersham 1st XI v Bexleyheath 1st XI

KEVIN Jones was the star of Rodmersham's 53-run win over Bexleyheath, hitting 138 with the bat before picking up figures of 3 for 78 with the ball.

With Jones' mammoth score the mainstay of their innings, Rodmersham reached 277 for 5 from their 50 overs, with Michael Jones adding 41.

Raj Patel carried his bat to finish unbeaten on 107 in Bexleyheath's reply, but Kevin Jones and Michael Jones (4 for 23) ensured the visitors came up well short of their target, all out for 224.

Rodmersham 1st XI

	Runs
Kevin Jones	c&b Woods 138
Nick Denby	ct Burnham b Johnson 32
Dylan Emmett	ct Burnham b Johnson 14
Michael Jones	ct Patel b Johnson 41
Robert Horne	ct Burnham b Johnson 11
Kevin Beacon	not out 7
Darren Nokes	not out 14
Chris Ansley	did not bat
Jack Bayford	did not bat
Karl Reeves	did not bat
Darrin Carpenter	did not bat
Extras	(9b 5lb 5w 1nb) 20
Total	(5 wickets, 50 overs) 277

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Jack Woods	12	1	62	1
Tom Beaumont	4	1	27	0
Hamish Kumar	6	1	25	0
Phillip Bone	11	0	51	0
Clinton Johnson	15	0	75	4
Ravi Patel	2	0	23	0

Bexleyheath 1st XI

	Runs
Raj Patel	not out 107
Russell Allen	ct Carpenter b Ansley 5
Ravi Patel	ct M Jones b Emmett 13
Hamish Kumar	b K Jones 29
Pat Heath	lbw b K Jones 0
Tom Beaumont	ct M Jones b K Jones 1
Jack Woods	b M Jones 28
Phillip Bone	b M Jones 1
Clinton Johnson	b M Jones 4
Grantleigh Burnham	ct Horne b M Jones 3
Richard Howes	lbw b Nokes 0
Extras	(5b 13w 13w 6nb) 33
Total	(all out, 49.3 overs) 224

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Darren Nokes	5.3	0	25	1
Chris Ansley	9	2	31	1
Dylan Emmett	12	2	36	1
Kevin Jones	15	1	78	3
Jack Bayford	3	0	17	0
Michael Jones	5	0	23	4

Luchford to unleash full strength Town on Stones

FOOTBALL

BY GLENN PEARSON

FAVERSHAM Town manager Justin Luchford will use this weekend's final home game of pre-season to gear his side up for their first term in the Ryman League.

The Kent League champions haven't had an easy summer with some key departures and players away during pre-season, but Luchford expects to have a full strength squad available for the visit of Maidstone United on Saturday.

The Lilywhites have seen Lee Shearer and Damian Abel both leave for Hythe Town, while Dave Soutan joined Whitstable Town during the close season.

Dan Larkin, Dave Botterill, Dale Skelton and Tom Hickman have all missed large chunks of pre-season having been away on holiday, but all four are back and will train this week ahead of Saturday's game.

Luchford is likely to name a strong side for the visit of the Stones as Faversham up their preparations ahead of the first game of the season at Whitehawk on August 21.

He said: "The Maidstone game is the one we have identified because we have got to start thinking about what we have got going into the season. We have one more game after that, although we may try and get another in behind closed doors against our reserves, and the players know they need to be ready."



ADDITION: Faversham have signed Justin Ascheri (left) from Chatham Town to boost their forward line

Town missed out on adding to their strikeforce with triallist Ian Pulman opting to go back to Whitstable Town, but that for Luchford, has been tempered with the news summer signing Danny Hunt has recovered from injury and former Chatham Town attacker Justin Ascheri has signed to bolster the forward line.

"Dan Hunt is back fit now so he will play some part on Saturday," the Town boss said. "Ascheri has been training with and has signed, I think he will give us a little bit extra up front. I'm happy with what I've got

and I'm not looking to bring anyone else in, but if a player became available that could strengthen us I'd be silly not to have a look at them."

Town gave their reserve and youth players a run out in their friendly with Herne Bay at the weekend, drawing 1-1 to share the Kent League Challenge Shield. Luchford trained his first-team before the game in preparation for last night's visit of League Two side Gillingham.

For a report and reaction from the game, visit www.yoursware.co.uk.

FOOTBALL



VACANCY: Garry Abbott is on the lookout for a stopper

Bourne boss still short of a keeper

SITTINGBOURNE'S goalkeeping conundrum remains unsolved with the new Ryman League season fast approaching and manager Gary Abbott eager to fill the void quickly.

The return of Deren Ibrahim to Dartford, his parent club, left the Brickies with only veteran Steve Williams on the books and Abbott has not been won over by the triallists he has seen so far.

Abbott had hoped former Maidstone United youngster Adam Harris would prove a suitable replacement for Ibrahim, but he admitted he is still searching for an adequate stopper.

The loss of captain Joe Dowley for the start of the season has also left Abbott with a vacancy at left-back. Dowley is likely to be out of action until the end of September with a double hernia and Abbott says he needs more strength in defence ahead of their opener at home to Dulwich Hamlet on August 21.

He said: "We've had a few boys in [goal], a couple of youngsters, but I'm still not thinking they're the right ones for us. We need a centre-half and I'm hoping to get one in this week."

"We need a left-back to cover for Liam Panther because Joe Dowley's going to be out for six or seven weeks. Panther's come in and he's done a good job, but I'm still not 100 per cent sure about him. We'll keep him, he can learn and he's got a lovely left foot."

Abbott must also move several players on before the season kicks off in order to meet budget requirements – a task he says has got easier since starting out in management.

Striker Rob Denness is expected to finally sign for the club this week and Abbott insists he is positive about the challenges which lie ahead.

"Going forward, we've got some great players," he said. "We've only got two weeks to go now but if I don't get anyone else in, I won't be that worried."

Norton manager delighted after Rook's Angels u-turn

FOOTBALL

NORTON Sports will include Ryan Rook in their squad to face Sevenoaks Town on Saturday after the winger returned to the club following a trial at Tonbridge Angels.

Rook's return is a timely boost for Norton as they prepare for their Kent League opener at Greatness Park, having preserved an unbeaten run through pre-season.

Norton player-manager Ben Taylor, who had consigned himself to losing Rook, saw him net the equaliser in a 1-1 draw with Rye United on Saturday and expressed his delight at the player's change of heart.

He said: "I'm delighted to have Rook back, he's come back from his trials because he wasn't happy there. He asked to come back, I was over the moon and he scored on Saturday. They asked him to stay on, but he wasn't enjoying it there."

The draw with Rye followed a 4-2 victory over County League side Canterbury City, where Rob Welling, Ashley Baverstock and Jack Goodger all got themselves on the scoresheet.

Sevenoaks finished sixth in the Kent League last season, but the squad has undergone several changes since Keith Levett took over as manager from Simon Jones.

"We're unbeaten in pre-season and it all helps getting the confidence up for Sevenoaks," said Taylor. "Every season it kicks off and I always feel we get the rough end of the stick. There are no easy games but we've started the last two seasons against



ON TARGET: Rob Welling scored in Canterbury friendly

Faversham, Herne Bay and now Sevenoaks. "We are confident though, we're looking better this year and we just need to turn up and play like we have been in pre-season."



TYRE TROUBLE: Shane Byrne struggled at Silverstone

No Silver lining for Shakey on home soil

SUPERBIKES

TECHNICAL difficulties hampered Shane Byrne and his Althea Racing team in front of a passionate British crowd at Silverstone at the weekend.

The Sheppey rider, whose World Superbike season has failed to take off, hoped to put on a show in front of his home fans but once again failed to live with the championship's main players.

Byrne qualified sixth but his performance was restricted by tyre problems and he dropped back three places to finish a disappointing ninth.

Alterations to the bike appeared to have stood Byrne in decent stead for race two and he remained in contention to finish seventh, but was pipped to the line by Sylvain Guintoli.

"They were difficult races," Byrne said. "In the first I had tyre problems that prevented me from doing any better. In the second we sorted the bike and changed the tyre and it went better. Then I found myself battling against Guintoli, but he was faster than me."

Both races were won by another British rider, Cal Crutchlow, who came into the weekend without a victory to his name. Leon Haslam, meanwhile, finished third and fourth to close the gap to championship leader Max Biaggi.

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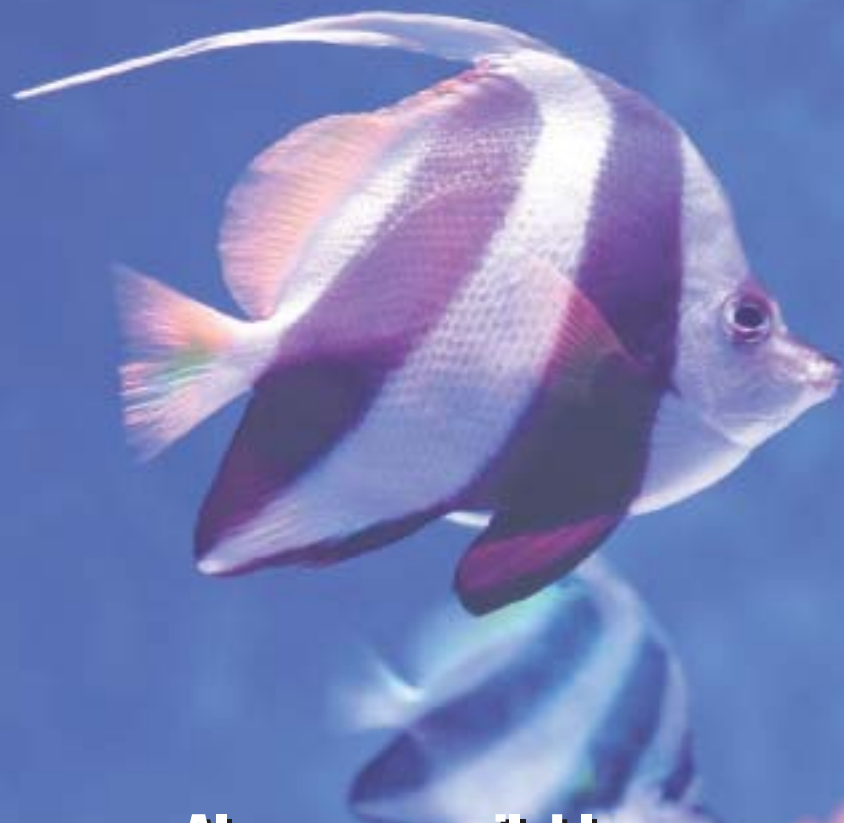


New signing Adebayo Akinfenwa on why he opted to join Gillingham

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